

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 21 December 64 21/2130Z	2. LOCATION Harrisonburg, Virginia
3. SOURCE Civilian	10. CONCLUSION PSYCHOLOGICAL CATEGORY
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS One	No evidence to indicate that a landing took place. Case carried in the general psychological category. SEE CASE FILE.
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 2 Minutes (Approximate)	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS Saucer landed and took off. Area allegedly radioactive. Car supposedly stopped by the object. Size estimated at more than 90 ft high. Shaped like a bee hive. Had a fluorescent light ring around center. Investigated from WPAFB. SEE CASE FILE.
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE Land & Take Off	Initial information received innletter from citizen 21 days after reported event allegedly took place.
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

FORM
FTD SEP 63 O-329 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

So Mr. Burns told me how to find the meadow in which the object had landed and said he judged that the UFO had rested about 100 yards from the highway. But he gave me no further directions. I found the meadow, stepped off 100 yards along the west fence, and then went 10 or 15 steps farther. Then with the Geiger counter turned on, I walked across the field eastward. When I was about two-thirds of the distance across the meadow, the needle started to rise and in the area from there 40 or 45 steps eastward the needle swung off the dial a number of times. I trailed the probe stick (by its flexible wire) in the dry grass and several times picked up highly radioactive particles that sent the needle off the dial. Even though I walked far off the landing site, the needle would not return until I had cleaned off the Geiger-Mueller D-50 tube with a cloth.

Fortunately, before I was halfway through this investigation Mr. Harry Cook, a DuPont research engineer, and a Mr. Funk, a fellow engineer, while driving home from the day's work, the former having learned the day before that the UFO had landed somewhere in that meadow, saw me there, stopped their car, joined me, and corroborated my findings when they saw the evident radioactivity revealed by the Geiger counter. (See Jan. 17 Richmond Times-Dispatch.) The Geiger counter I used is a Model 2612 Portable Survey Meter with a Model P15 probe. The Counter's ranges are 0.2, 2, and 20 mr/hr coinciding with 600; 6,000; and 60,000 counts per minute full scale with the P15 probe. The several times that I had evidently picked up radioactive particles, I had the range set at 0.2, but the needle still stayed off the dial even when I set the counter to the 2 or 20 ranges, and, as I said before, the needle did not return to near zero until I brushed off the tube with my handkerchief. After I had uncovered the tube in the probe stick the second time, to clean it off, I walked over the landing area with the probe stick and exposed tube held about five feet from the ground. While I was doing this, the needle wavered around 16-18 milliroentgens per hour. The rays so registering were evidently striking the tube from various directions from the ground. And we noticed that when all three of us were near to look at the counter dial, our bodies seemed to shield out many of the rays, so that the needle dropped back considerably. This would indicate that the radiation was not of the gamma ray type, because gamma rays will penetrate several feet of solid concrete, whereas a thin sheet of paper will stop the alpha rays and something like a one-inch board will stop beta rays.

On January 12 Technical Sergeant David Moody and Staff Sergeant Harold Jones of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, after telephone conversations initiated the day before by the Dayton, Ohio, team, arrived to investigate the UFO landing of over three weeks earlier. Horace Burns, Clair Weaver (student president of the UFO Investigators of Eastern Mennonite College), and I accompanied the Air Force officers to the landing site 32 miles south and back again to Harrisonburg. Sergeant Moody had Mr. Burns tell the entire story of his sighting, both on the way and on arrival at the place of the sighting. Also he questioned me as to my investigation of the landing site and discovery of the high radioactivity. To Mr. Dallas Kersey, reporter for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, who joined us when we were about to begin work in the field, Sergeant Moody said, "This is an unusual sighting. It's not routine. If it was routine, we wouldn't be here."

As the now six of us walked into the field, still covered with four inches of snow remaining from a six-inch fall of a few days before, it was no little gratification to me to see Mr. Burns lead the group exactly to the area that Mr. Cook, Mr. Funk, and I had found to be radioactive, and to hear him say, "Here, Gentlemen, is where this Thing stood." This was the first time Horace Burns and I had been near the place at the same time.

Sergeant Moody, using a Model 2586 Beta-Gamma Survey Meter, tested the area (rather perfunctorily, we felt) at 8 or 10 spots, first scraping the 4 inches of snow aside each time with his foot. Twice, when the needle started to rise, he ejaculated, "Uh!", quickly made some adjustment on his Survey Meter which caused the needle to return to zero, and then said, "See, there's no radiation here!" On a third occasion (each of these witnessed by at least three persons), when he poked his instrument too far into a clump of grass (after he had kicked off the snow), several grass stubbles punctured the thin grey plastic-like film on the end of the Meter and this time the needle shot up much higher than before, before he could jerk back the Meter and examine the damaged film. But again he made the adjustment, lowered the Meter more gently and said, "There's no radiation here!" However, he acknowledged that the 3 rains and the 6 inches of snow that had fallen, since the time of my investigation on December 30, could have dissipated any radioactive isotopes deposited there on Dec. 21, depending on their half-life, of course. The Sergeants both seemed sufficiently impressed by all the facts they observed and heard related, that they said several times that of the 532 UFOs reported in 1964 and investigated by the Air

Force (of which 16 were classified as unidentified or unexplained) this could well result in being the 17th for 1964.

In view of all these facts, when Mr. Burns and I each received our 3-page copy (dated January 27, 1965) of the Air Force report and findings on the Dec. 21 UFO landing near Staunton, it was with considerable surprise and dismay that we found that the Air Force had decided there had been no such UFO sighting and landing. The report's concluding paragraph reads:

"CONCLUSION: It is believed that a vehicle of this size would be observed by additional witnesses at the time and location of the reported event. There were no additional witnesses. There was no confirmation of radioactivity in the area. Grass and weeds had not been depressed. There was a total lack of any indication that a vehicle had landed in the field. Investigation by Air Force personnel and subsequent analysis of the data collected fails to reveal any evidence of an alleged landing."

Apparently the honest, straightforward, detailed testimony by Horace Burns, as to what he saw in the air, on the ground, and in the air again, and its effect on the motor of his car, and my testimony, supported by two technically experienced witnesses, as to the radioactivity of the landing site of the UFO, do not constitute evidence as far as the Air Force is concerned.

Strangely missing from the greatly detailed, 3-page report from the Air Force was any reference at all to the three rains and the 6 inches of snow that had fallen on the area between December 30 and January 12, which we reported to the Air Force team and which they could easily have verified at the local weather station which informs us that between these dates this region had a total precipitation of exactly 2 inches. The two sergeants were very much aware of the 4 inches of snow still present in the field, through which they waded in their low shoes for half an hour, although I had urged them during their long-distance call from Ohio, to come prepared with galoshes.

Also missing from their report is any reference to the fact that the two research engineers (Messrs. Cook and Funk, used to Geiger counter work), had witnessed the radioactivity of the landing area. Curiously, the sergeants evinced no interest in talking to these two engineers, both of whom live within a few miles of the area. However, Sergeant Moody mentions in his report that copies of several Richmond Times-Dispatch articles are attached, including one written by Reporter Dallas Kersey on January 16 for the January 17 issue. Moody does not quote from the article, but he can hardly have missed reading the following:

Nine days after Burns said he saw the 80 to 90-foot object, Gehman took a Geiger counter to the site to check for radiation. He knew that other reported UFO's have given off radiation.

Gehman got a "tremendously high reading" of radiation, and his finding has been verified by H.M. Cook of Staunton, a research engineer at Waynesboro's DuPont plant. Gehman "was having a tizzy because the needle was all the way off the dial," said Cook, who has had considerable experience with Geiger counters in his work.

"It was a hot area," Cook said. "We spent 45 minutes in the field trying to tone this reading down. We checked the radium dials on our watches, even went over a small hill from the field, but this was definitely an accurate reading. The only thing I can say is that it was hot (radioactive)."

Another curious juggling of the facts appears in the Air Force report near the bottom of page 2 as follows:

"Examination of the field showed that grass and brittle weeds stems had not been depressed or broken over any large area. There was no indication that a large vehicle or object of any significant weight had landed in the field."

How could they make such a statement, when the facts are that the meadow, of good quality grass, had been mowed for hay and there were no brittle weed stems in the field anywhere, to be depressed or broken down? And as for the grass, how could the Sergeants know that it had not been depressed, since it was covered with 4 inches of snow when they were there? The photograph, widely published, taken by Mr. Kersey of Sergeant Moody and Horace Burns bending over the Air Force Survey Meter, eloquently proves the presence of at least 4 inches of snow.

Again, on page 3 of their report they refer twice to the reading I had obtained on the Geiger counter, once that it was 60,000 counts per minute, which is correct, but later this is equated with "60,000 mr/hr on the check by Dr. Gehman," but this would multiply the radiation I found by 120. And they quote Major James Sprout, Air Force radiation expert, as stating (apparently

on the basis of this misinformation) that such radioactive strength deposited on December 21 should yield a positive return on January 12, which would without a doubt be correct, if there had been radioactivity of such intensity. But following on Major Sproul's statement, the report says, ". . . there is no alternative but to disregard the Geiger counter returns taken by Dr. Gehman." In this way they disposed of the problem indicated by the opening sentence in their paragraph on radiation: "The most pertinent fact in the alleged landing was the Geiger counter reading taken by Dr. Gehman."

Two questions continually linger in my mind. First, was the Air Force Beta-Gamma Survey Meter really the proper instrument to use, if the radiation might have been mainly or only of alpha rays? And, second, was their particular instrument, which Sergeant Moody always held down close to the ground, really designed to discover radiation in a wide, general area? Was it not rather designed for use after the source of the rays has already been pretty definitely pinpointed?

In this Air Force report there are a number of other curious errors and misjudgments of fact, such as their saying that the UFO had crossed Route 250 "at an altitude higher than a transmission power line to the left of the highway. These telephone (sic) poles are approximately 75 feet in height. Descent of the object was at an angle and the object appeared to be spinning slightly." Now it happens that those Virginia Electric Power Company poles are declared by VEPSCO officials to be from 38 to 44 feet in height, which averages at little more than half as high as was estimated by the Sergeants. If they had missed this estimate by 5 or even 10 feet, it could be overlooked, but to miss it by 30 feet is more than one hopes for from technically trained members of a responsible investigating team. And as to the "spinning" of the UFO, we have heard Mr. Burns say repeatedly, as he said in answer to Sergeant Moody's question that day, that he did not notice any spinning.

The report contains a number of other such discrepancies. For a quick rundown of some of these, note:

(a) Sergeant Moody called my home at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 12, instead of at 9:00 a.m. as he said in his report to his superiors. Small matter? Perhaps. When he called at 11:30 he told Mrs. Gehman that they had just arrived at a local motel and needed to shave and wash up and eat before we could get together, which we did at 1:30.

(b) Describing the UFO: "The band of light was about 12 inches in diameter." He should have said "in width."

(c) "The object rose straight up, tilted at an angle and shot off into space . . ." Mr. Burns had told him: "shot off in a northeasterly direction." It had come from due north.

(d) "Direction of departure was about sixty degrees to the right of its approach." However, the angle between north and northeast is not 60 but 45 degrees.

(e) "Dr. E. G. Gehman stated that he had contacted occupants of the adjacent farmhouses and that they had seen or heard nothing." Correct; but since the Sergeants accepted and reported this fact, why not also my much more extended testimony of the two research engineers who shared my Geiger counter investigation with me?

(f) "Dr. Gehman is head of a local UFO Hobby Club and has appeared on several local radio programs in the area." The UFO Investigators are a serious group of college students conducting a scientific inquiry on the many locally reported UFO phenomena. I have never appeared on a local radio program on the subject of UFOs; although WSVA on Dec. 27 announced the existence of this extracurricular group organized several months earlier at Eastern Mennonite College, as noted above.

(g) "At no time during the thirty minutes of investigation was the highway empty of cars." This can be challenged, for all of us were intent on Sergeant Moody's Geiger counter, as he also was. No one was consistently observing the highway traffic.

(h) Regarding Mr. Burns: "Without a thorough psychiatric examination no positive conclusion regarding hallucination is possible. The witness's reliability is not questioned." This seems like contradictory testimony. How can one consider a witness reliable, if one also suspects that he may have hallucinations? But since Mr. Burns' simple, frank testimony has through these weeks been consistent and unshaken under sometimes severe cross-questioning, even heckling, possibly it is not he who should have a thorough psychiatric examination.

(i) The Air Force report states, as quoted above: "There were no additional witnesses" to the Burns' sighting. While it is true that at the time of the Air Force team's visit we did not know of any other persons who had seen the same UFO, yet two days later Mr. Kersey interviewed a 14-year-old high school boy, Kenneth Norton, of Staunton, who saw a large UFO traveling rapidly

over the city in the direction from which Horace Burns saw it coming. This sighting by Kenneth occurred on the same day just a few minutes before the landing seen by Burns. The boy called to his mother to come to see the object. His parents corroborate their son's story as to date and time of sighting. A fuller account of this and of the sighting in the air by another father and son and still another man, of the UFO, apparently immediately after it had left the landing site on Route 250, are told in Reporter Kersey's January 15 and 17 Richmond Times-Dispatch articles. Sergeant Moody had at least the article of the 17th as mentioned earlier, but, without looking into these reports at all, he could blandly say, "There were no additional witnesses."

This paper does not exhaust the inconsistencies and discrepancies in the Air Force report of its "official investigation." One or two of those remaining the writer plans to take up with Sergeant Moody personally, in addition to the ones noted in this paper, but all of them together constitute strong proof that the investigation and subsequent report were considerably less than fair and open-minded. In consequence, a good many people in the Shenandoah Valley feel that if other Air Force investigations of UFO reports may be judged by this one, then the general reputation that the Aerial Phenomena Section of the Air Force, Project Blue Book, has on the subject is by no means undeserved.

While on the whole we have a very high regard for the United States Air Force, its tremendous responsibilities for the safety of our country, its capabilities, standards, and, by no means least, its personnel, yet we cannot help feeling that the Aerial Phenomena Section of the Foreign Technology Division would do well to seriously overhaul its principles, its methodology, and some of its personnel.

Attestation: I believe the above report by Dr. Gehman is a complete and accurate statement of Mr. Horace Burns' UFO sighting and related matters.

Ernest G. Gehman

Signed:

Ernest G. Gehman
Professor of German
Sponsor of UFO Investigators
Eastern Mennonite College
Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA

R. Clair Weaver

Signed:

R. Clair Weaver, President
UFO Investigators
Eastern Mennonite College
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Attestation: I have read this paper and can affirm that it is a true and reliable report.

Horace Burns

Signed:

Horace Burns, Gunsmith
Grottoes, Virginia

P.S. Further confirmation: just as we go to press we learn that several homes in the landing region reported the fact that at about 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 21 their lights suddenly dimmed and their radios and TV sets ceased functioning for several minutes. The heads of these homes are said to have told this in the factory where they work.

GEHMAN'S VIEWS AIRED

Prof. Gehman, who also is a minister, thinks there is possibly some connection between the UFOs and the second coming of Christ. Gehman believes ours is not the only inhabited planet.

NICAP AND KEYHOE

Prof. Gehman filed the report with NICAP. The news story (Continued on Page 4)

Huge UFO At Staunton, Va.

Mr. Horace Burns, of Grottoes, Virginia, claims to have seen an 80-foot-high UFO four miles east of Staunton, Virginia at 5 p.m. on 21 December 1964. Drawings of the object show a general cone shape 125 feet in diameter with a band of bluish-white light on the bottom.

Burns claimed the metallic-appearing object came out of the sky north of the Highway, crossed Route 250 about 200 feet ahead of him and then his engine stopped. He said his car seemed to come to an "unnaturally" quick stop.

He also said the object landed lightly, "like a bubble" about 100 yards off the Highway. It had no visible portholes, wings or seams. See diagram. The object rested on the meadow for from 60-90 seconds, then with a sound of rushing air, it rose straight up for several hundred feet and then proceeded into the northeast. Burns claimed there was no traffic during this time, nor was there any for at least a mile ahead along the route which he drove his car after he started it up again.

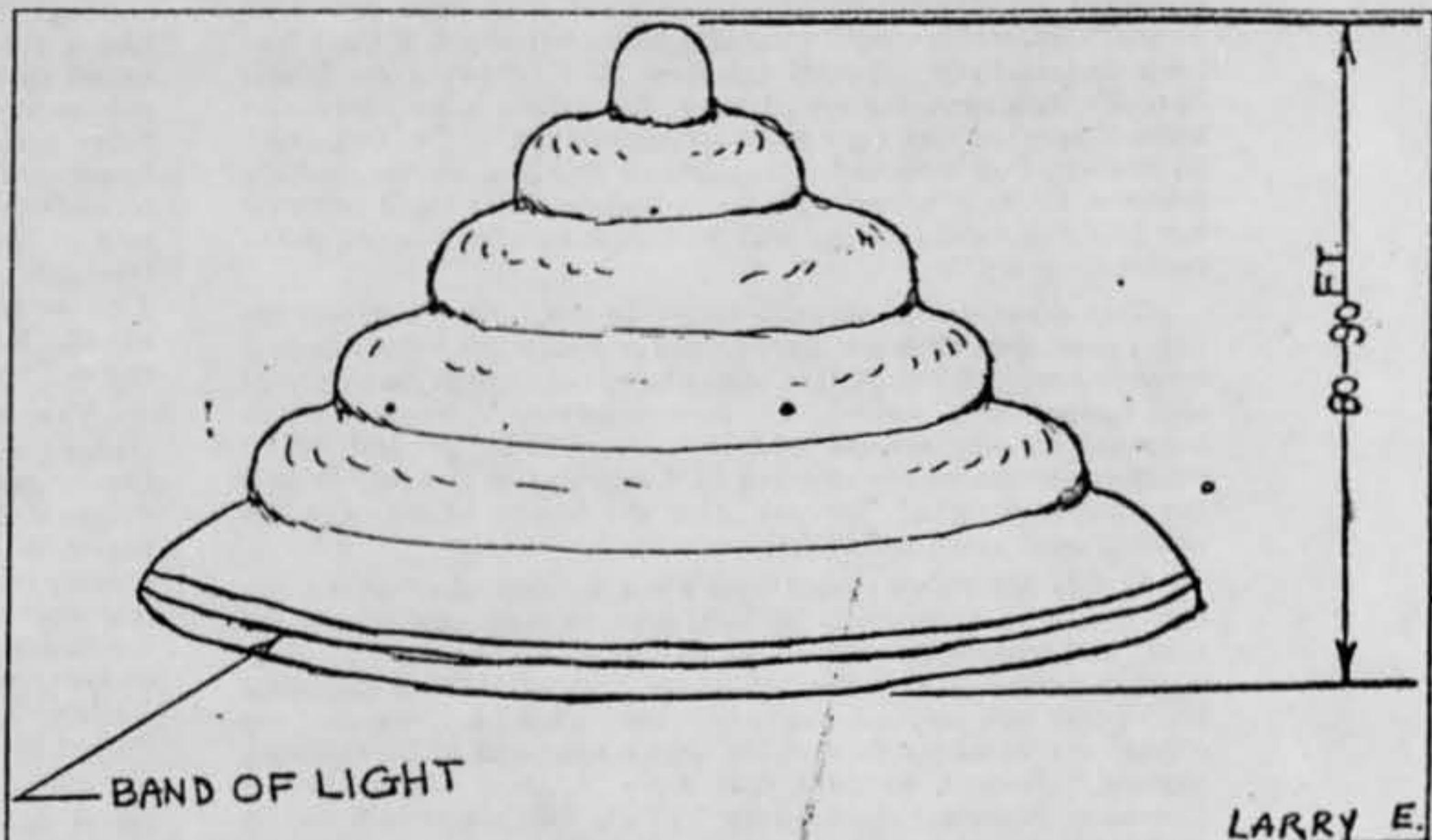
Six days later Mr. Burns informed Ernest G. Gehman, a Professor of German at Eastern Mennonite College at Harrisonburg. On the following Tuesday Professor Gehman taped the story at Mr. Burns' gunshop. On Wednesday the Professor tested the area where the UFO had purportedly landed and his counter registered 60,000 counts per minute. This was 9 days after the UFO had rested on the spot.

On January 12 Sgt. David Moody and S/Sgt. H. Jones of Wright-Patterson AFB arrived to investigate the landing. They questioned Burns and Gehman.

Gehman, who was on the scene during the AF investigation, noted that Moody also got an indication of radioactivity. This was three weeks after the incident. Moody also indicated the Burns sighting was a "good" one by several remarks. However, in their 3-page report which they forwarded to Gehman, they inferred their doubts concerning the authenticity of Burns' claims.

To our knowledge no sighting of a UFO in that area which would tend to corroborate Burns' claims has come to light. It has been suggested that the lack of traffic on route 250 is most unusual at any time of day and especially at 5 p.m.

An examination of a state of Virginia road map shows Staunton intersected by two major highways and several smaller roads. Route 11 runs roughly SSW to NNE. Highway 250 where the huge UFO was alleged to have landed, runs WNW and ESE. This major U. S. Highway runs to Charlottesville and then to Richmond, ESE of Staunton. It does not



Shown above is the "beehive" shaped object reportedly observed near Staunton, Virginia, U.S.A. on 21 December, 1964.

seem likely that an 80-90 foot high UFO could land in daylight on a major thoroughfare and be seen by only one individual. Charlottesville, home of the University of Virginia is only 35 miles away to the ESE. Its population is in excess of 30,000. The population of Staunton is 20,000. Waynesboro, between Staunton and Charlottesville, has 13,000 residents.

This evidence seems to conflict with Burns' story—but on the other hand, we have the testimony of a respected University Professor concerning excessive radiation.

A short time ago, some strange holes and high radiation count were found in the woods near Glassboro, New Jersey. A tale of a glowing red object which had purportedly landed in the woods was told to the son of a known UFO enthusiast and NICAP member, by an unidentified youth. Police investigated and located a boy who was identified as the one who originally told of the alleged landing. He was taken into custody, admitted perpetrating a hoax by digging the holes and scattering certain chemicals to raise the radiation count. He was tried, found guilty, fined, warned about future shenanigans and released. His fine was also suspended.

We relate the latter case without pertinent details or names (the case is old and does not appear to be a true UFO report) because it is important in that radiation at an alleged UFO landing site can be simulated. However, such fake cases can be detected with a little investigation.

on the basis of this misinformation) that such radioactive strength deposited on December 21 should yield a positive return on January 12, which would without a doubt be correct, if there had been radioactivity of such intensity. But following on Major Sproul's statement, the report says, ". . . there is no alternative but to disregard the Geiger counter returns taken by Dr. Gehman." In this way they disposed of the problem indicated by the opening sentence in their paragraph on radiation: "The most pertinent fact in the alleged landing was the Geiger counter reading taken by Dr. Gehman."

Two questions continually linger in my mind. First, was the Air Force Beta-Gamma Survey Meter really the proper instrument to use, if the radiation might have been mainly or only of alpha rays? And, second, was their particular instrument, which Sergeant Moody always held down close to the ground, really designed to discover radiation in a wide, general area? Was it not rather designed for use after the source of the rays has already been pretty definitely pinpointed?

In this Air Force report there are a number of other curious errors and misjudgments of fact, such as their saying that the UFO had crossed Route 250 "at an altitude higher than a transmission power line to the left of the highway. These telephone (sic) poles are approximately 75 feet in height. Descent of the object was at an angle and the object appeared to be spinning slightly." Now it happens that those Virginia Electric Power Company poles are declared by VEPSCO officials to be from 38 to 44 feet in height, which averages at little more than half as high as was estimated by the Sergeants. If they had missed this estimate by 5 or even 10 feet, it could be overlooked, but to miss it by 30 feet is more than one hopes for from technically trained members of a responsible investigating team. And as to the "spinning" of the UFO, we have heard Mr. Burns say repeatedly, as he said in answer to Sergeant Moody's question that day, that he did not notice any spinning.

The report contains a number of other such discrepancies. For a quick rundown of some of these, note:

Page 1: (a) Sergeant Moody called my home at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 12, instead of at 9:00 a.m. as he said in his report to his superiors. Small matter? Perhaps. When he called at 11:30 he told Mrs. Gehman that they had just arrived at a local motel and needed to shave and wash up and eat before we could get together, which we did at 1:30.

(b) Describing the UFO: "The band of light was about 12 inches in diameter." He should have said "in width."

Page 2: (a) "The object rose straight up, tilted at an angle and shot off into space . . ." Mr. Burns had told him: "shot off in a northeasterly direction." It had come from due north.

(b) "Direction of departure was about sixty degrees to the right of its approach." However, the angle between north and northeast is not 60 but 45 degrees.

(c) "Dr. E. G. Gehman stated that he had contacted occupants of the adjacent farmhouses and that they had seen or heard nothing." Correct; but since the Sergeants accepted and reported this fact, why not also my much more extended testimony of the two research engineers who shared my Geiger counter investigation with me?

(d) "Dr. Gehman is head of a local UFO Hobby Club and has appeared on several local radio programs in the area." The UFO Investigators are a serious group of college students conducting a scientific inquiry on the many locally reported UFO phenomena. I have never appeared on a local radio program on the subject of UFOs; although WSVA on Dec. 27 announced the existence of this extracurricular group organized several months earlier at Eastern Mennonite College, as noted above.

Page 3: (a) "At no time during the thirty minutes of investigation was the highway empty of cars." This can be challenged, for all of us were intent on Sergeant Moody's Geiger counter, as he also was. No one was consistently observing the highway traffic.

(b) Regarding Mr. Burns: "Without a thorough psychiatric examination no positive conclusion regarding hallucination is possible. The witness's reliability is not questioned." This seems like contradictory testimony. How can one consider a witness reliable, if one also suspects that he may have hallucinations? But since Mr. Burns' simple, frank testimony has through these weeks been consistent and unshaken under sometimes severe cross-questioning, even heckling, possibly it is not he who should have a thorough psychiatric examination.

(c) The Air Force report states, as quoted above: "There were no additional witnesses" to the Burns' sighting. While it is true that at the time of the Air Force team's visit we did not know of any other persons who had seen the same UFO, yet two days later Mr. Kersey interviewed a 14-year-old high schoolboy, Kenneth Norton, of Staunton, who saw a large UFO traveling rapidly

over the city in the direction from which Horace Burns saw it coming. This sighting by Kenneth occurred on the same day just a few minutes before the landing seen by Burns. The boy called to his mother to come to see the object. His parents corroborate their son's story as to date and time of sighting. A fuller account of this and of the sighting in the air by another father and son and still another man, of the UFO, apparently immediately after it had left the landing site on Route 250, are told in Reporter Kersey's January 15 and 17 Richmond Times-Dispatch articles. Sergeant Moody had at least the article of the 17th as mentioned earlier, but, without looking into these reports at all, he could blandly say, "There were no additional witnesses."

This paper does not exhaust the inconsistencies and discrepancies in the Air Force report of its "official investigation." One or two of those remaining the writer plans to take up with Sergeant Moody personally, in addition to the ones noted in this paper, but all of them together constitute strong proof that the investigation and subsequent report were considerably less than fair and open-minded. In consequence, a good many people in the Shenandoah Valley feel that if other Air Force investigations of UFO reports may be judged by this one, then the general reputation that the Aerial Phenomena Section of the Air Force, Project Blue Book, has on the subject is by no means undeserved.

While on the whole we have a very high regard for the United States Air Force, its tremendous responsibilities for the safety of our country, its capabilities, standards, and, by no means least, its personnel, yet we cannot help feeling that the Aerial Phenomena Section of the Foreign Technology Division would do well to seriously overhaul its principles, its methodology, and some of its personnel.

Attestation: I believe the above report by Dr. Gehman is a complete and accurate statement of Mr. Horace Burns' UFO sighting and related matters.

Ernest G. Gehman

Signed:
Ernest G. Gehman
Professor of German
Sponsor of UFO Investigators
Eastern Mennonite College
Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA

R. Clair Weaver

Signed:
R. Clair Weaver, President
UFO Investigators
Eastern Mennonite College
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Attestation: I have read this paper and can affirm that it is a true and reliable report.

Horace Burns

Signed:
Horace Burns, Gunsmith
Grottoes, Virginia

P.S. Further confirmation: just as we go to press we learn that several homes in the landing region reported the fact that at about 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 21 their lights suddenly dimmed and their radios and TV sets ceased functioning for several minutes. The heads of these homes are said to have told this in the factory where they work.

GEHMAN'S VIEWS AIRED

Prof. Gehman, who also is a minister, thinks there is possibly some connection between the UFOs and the second coming of Christ. Gehman believes ours is not the only inhabited planet.

NICAP AND KEYHOE

Prof. Gehman filed the report with NICAP. The news story (Continued on Page 4)

Harrisonburg, Virginia
21 December 1964

VIRGINIA SAUCER LANDING LEAVES HIGH RADIOACTIVITY: On December 21st, Horace Burns, a Harrisonburg, Va. gunsmith, was driving on Route 250 a few miles east of Staunton, when he saw a UFO which he estimates to have been 125 feet in diameter at the base, and 75 feet in height. The object was so large that he could not see all of it when looking at it through his car windshield. As the object crossed the road ahead of him, "some sort of force" was exerted on the car, because the motor lost its power temporarily. The automobile stopped dead as the UFO crossed the highway and came to rest in a meadow about 100 yards away. It was cone-shaped, and its circular sloping sides rose in six large rings that diminished in diameter to a dome on the top. All around the perimeter at the base of the machine there was a bluish glow in a band about a foot wide. There were no windows or doors, and no evidence of seams of any sort. Mr. Burns stood beside his car for a minute or two, after which the saucer rose up and took off at very high speed in a northeasterly direction. After the UFO disappeared, the car operated normally, as is the usual case in such incidents.

MO, Case (Information Only
Source: Saucer News

Last January
Staunton, Va.

In our non-scheduled Newsletter #22 we gave the story of seven teenagers who said they saw a little man from outer space near Staunton, Va., late last January. A photograph was also taken by the boys. In our report we stated that the story "has all the earmarks of a hoax." Now we learn that a local man named Donald Cash has admitted hoaxing the youngsters...We also have a follow-up on the Virginia landing story on Page 18 of our March issue: The industrial worker who, on January 19th, saw three 37-inch-high beings emerge from a landed UFO, now has allegedly been "hushed up" by the U. S. Government. When asked by local newspapers to confirm or deny this rumor, the man had no comment. Although his name was not released by the newspapers at first, we have learned that he is William Blackburn, an employee of the General Electric Company....In regard to the "physical evidence" found along a New Jersey highway last November (as described on Pages 17-18 of our March issue), over a dozen subscribers have accepted our offer to send a sample of the material to any person who has access to laboratory facilities. As yet, none of these people have reported back to us with the results of any analysis. However, Paul Hammer, a Chicago researcher, sent a sample to the U. S. Air Force, and received a letter from Wright-Patterson dated February 24th, a copy of which was sent to us. The Air Force (as was to be expected) identified the material as nothing more mysterious than ordinary glass fibers....

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

Feb. 24, 1965

Dear Major -

I said about weather? I
got a reply from Dr. Gehman. It's
send it on - not too complimentary
I feel. I hope NICAP doesn't
publish it.

The weather here is awful -
I haven't been able to get out
to O'Hare yet - best I talked
with them on the phone so far.

Cheers -

Allen

GIANTIC UFO LANDS NEAR STANINTON, VIRGINIA
(Report prepared for National Investigations Committee on Aerial
Phenomena, Washington, D. C.)

Possibly the most remarkable sighting of an unidentified flying object ever reported to have taken place in the Shenandoah Valley occurred at 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 21, 1964. Mr. Horace Burns, living at Grottoes, Va., and conducting a small gunshop business on North Main Street in Harrisonburg, was driving his Mercury station wagon a few miles east of Staninton on Route 250 toward Waynesboro, when he saw a huge metallic object coming out of the sky north of the highway. As it crossed Route 250 about 200 feet ahead of him, his motor stopped dead, "conked out," as he tells it, and his car seemed to come to an unnaturally quick stop.

The UFO landed lightly "like a bubble" in a small meadow at a spot about 100 yards from the highway. Mr. Burns guided his car to the side of the road, got out and stood beside it, and stared in amazement at the awesome spectacle. What he saw resembled in shape an upside-down toy top, but the size of it was astounding. "It was 125 feet in diameter, at least, and 80 to 90 feet high!" he declares. And besides being generally cone-shaped, its circular, sloping sides rose in about 6 large, concentric convolutions that decreased in diameter to a dome at the top.

Although in the gathering twilight Craftman Burns could not be sure of the exact nature of the material of which it was made, it appeared to be metallic, possibly of aluminum. He noted that all around the perimeter at the base of the monstrous machine there was a bluish glow in a band about a foot, possibly 18 inches, wide. He could see no windows, doors, portholes, or even seams anywhere on the object. Nor did there seem to be any sort of landing gear; the vehicle had gently settled flat on its bottom on the ground, although he noted that its underside was slightly curved.

The visitor from outer space rested on the meadow for from 60 to 90 seconds and then with a "whoosh," the sound no doubt caused by the air rushing under it, it suddenly rose straight up for several hundred feet and immediately took off in a northeasterly direction at a speed much greater than when it crossed the highway from the north the first time, which Mr. Burns estimates to have been about 15 miles per hour.

After it was gone, Burns got into his car again and was surprised to find, when he pressed the starter button, that there was nothing wrong with the engine and that it started off at once. As he drove away he was evidently very much excited and engrossed in his thoughts about the apparition (as who wouldn't be?), for he cannot recall seeing any other vehicles coming or going on Route 250 for possibly a mile. But no doubt other cars on that busy highway must have been halted by the UFO's tremendous magnetic field, and other drivers must have witnessed the sight; we hope any such will make the fact known.

Horace Burns went home and told Mrs. Burns the story of what he had seen, but declared he would not tell anyone else. "They'd think I'm crazy," he said. But six days later, when Mr. Jim Shipp of WSVA announced on the 6 p.m. newscast about the existence of the UFO Investigators as an extra-curricular club at Eastern Mennonite College, Mrs. Burns convinced her husband that he should report his experience. He told it on Monday to Mr. Shipp, who informed the Investigators, who taped the story on Tuesday as Mr. Burns told it. On Wednesday I made a preliminary testing ~~#/fm~~ of the area with a Geiger counter which revealed radio-activity of over 60,000 counts per minute. This was 9 days after the UFO had briefly rested there!

As an interesting and unplanned corroboration of Horace Burns' story, let me mention the fact that I found the exact landing area of the UFO by myself with the Geiger counter. Mr. Burns had intended to accompany me to the spot, but when the hour arrived for us to go to the place four miles east of Staunton (which is 23 miles south of Harrisonburg) he could not leave his gunshop until a certain dealer in West Virginia had come to pick up a lot of guns which Burns had repaired for the dealer's customers and which they had to have the next day to shoot out the old year and to shoot in the new!

So Mr. Burns told me how to find the meadow in which the object had landed and said he judged that the UFO had rested about 100 yards from the highway. But he gave me no further directions. I found the meadow, stepped off 100 yards along the west fence, and then went 10 steps farther. Then with the Geiger counter turned on, I walked across the field eastward. When I was about two-thirds of the distance across the meadow, the needle started to rise and in the area from there about 45 steps eastward the needle swung off the dial a number of times. I trailed the probe stick (by its flexible wire) in the dry grass and several times picked up highly radio-active particles that sent the needle off the dial. Even though I walked far off the landing site, the needle would not return until I had cleaned off the Geiger-Mueller D#50 tube with a cloth.

Fortunately, before I was halfway through this investigation Mr. Harry Cook, a DuPont research engineer, and Mr. Funk, a fellow engineer, while driving home from the day's work, and having learned the day before that the UFO had landed somewhere in that meadow, saw me there, stopped their car, joined me, and corroborated my findings when they saw the evident radio-activity revealed by the Geiger counter. (See Jan. 17 Times-Dispatch.) The Geiger counter I used is a Model 2612 Portable Survey Meter with a model p-15 probe. The Counter's ranges are 0.2, 2, and 20 mr/hr coinciding with 600; 6,000; and 60,000 counts per minute full scale with the p-15 probe. The several times that I had evidently picked up radioactive particles, I had the range set at 0.2, but the needle still stayed off the dial even when I set the counter to the 2 and 20 ranges, and, as I said before, the needle did not return to near zero until I brushed off the tube with my handkerchief. After I had uncovered the tube in the probe stick the second time, to clean it off, I walked over the landing area with the probe stick and exposed tube held about five feet from the ground. While I was doing this, the needle wavered around the 17-18 milliroentgens per hour area. The rays so registering were evidently striking the tube from various directions from the ground. And we noticed that when all three of us were near, to look at the counter dial, our bodies seemed to shield out many of the rays, so that the needle dropped back considerably. This would indicate that the radiation was not of the gamma ray type, because gamma rays will penetrate several feet of solid concrete, whereas a thin sheet of paper will stop the alpha rays and something like a one-inch board will stop beta rays.

On January 12 Technical Sergeant David Moody and Staff Sergeant Harold Jones of the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, after telephone conversations initiated by the Dayton, Ohio, team, arrived to investigate the UFO landing of over three weeks earlier. Horace Burns, Clair Weaver (student president of the UFO Investigators of Eastern Mennonite College), and I accompanied the Air Force officers to the landing site 33 miles south and back to Harrisonburg. Sergeant Moody had Mr. Burns tell the entire story of his sighting, both on the way and on arrival at the place of the sighting. Also he questioned me as to my investigation of the landing site and discovery of the high radioactivity. To Mr. Dallas Kersey, reporter for the Richmond Times-Dispatch, who joined us while we were ~~at~~ work in the field, Sergeant about to begin

Moody said, "This is an unusual sighting. It's not routine. If it was routine, we wouldn't be here."

As the now six of us walked into the field, still covered with four inches of snow remaining from a six-inch fall of a few days before, it was no little gratification to me to see Mr. Burns lead the group exactly to the area that Mr. Cook, Mr. Funk, and I had found to be radioactive, and to hear him say, "Here, Gentlemen, is where this thing stood." This was the first time Horace Burns and I had been near the place at the same time.

Sergeant Moody, using a Model 2586 Beta-Gamma Survey Meter, tested the area (rather perfunctorily, we felt) at 8 or 10 spots, first scraping the 4 inches of snow aside each time with his foot. Twice, when the needle started to rise, he ejaculated, "Uh!", quickly made some adjustment on his Survey Meter which caused the needle to return to zero, and then said, "See, there's no radiation here!" On a third occasion (each of these witnessed by at least three persons), when he poked his instrument too far into a clump of grass (after he had kicked off the snow), several grass stubbles punctured the thin grey plastic-like film on the end of the meter and this time the needle shot up much higher than before, before he could jerk back the Meter and examine the damaged film. But again he made the adjustment, lowered the Meter more gently and said, "There's no radiation here." However, he acknowledged that the 3 rains and the 6 inches of snow that had fallen, since the time of my investigation on December 30, could have dissipated any radioactive isotopes deposited there on Dec. 21, depending on their half-life, of course. The Sergeants both seemed sufficiently impressed by all the facts they observed and heard related, that they said several times that of the 532 UFOs reported in 1964 and investigated by the Air Force (of which 16 were classified as unidentified or unexplained) this could well result in being the 17th for 1964.

In view of all these facts, when Mr. Burns and I each received our 3-page copy (dated January 27, 1965) of the Air Force report and findings on the Dec 21 UFO landing near Staunton, it was with considerable surprise and dismay that we found that the Air Force had decided there had been no such UFO sighting and landing. The report's concluding paragraph reads:

"CONCLUSION It is believed that a vehicle of this size would be observed by additional witnesses at the time and location of the reported event. There were no additional witnesses. There was no confirmation of radioactivity in the area. Grass and weeds ~~were~~ had not been depressed. There was a total lack of any indication that a vehicle had landed in the field. Investigation by Air Force personnel and subsequent analysis of the data collected fails to reveal any evidence of an alleged landing."

Apparently the honest, straightforward, detailed testimony by Horace Burns, as to what he saw in the air, on the ground, and in the air again, and its effect on the motor of his car, and my testimony, supported by two technically experienced witnesses, as to the radioactivity of the landing site of the UFO, do not constitute evidence as far as the Air Force is concerned.

Strangely missing from the greatly detailed, 3-page report from the Air Force was any reference at all to the three rains and the 6 inches of snow that had fallen on the area between December 30 and January 12, which we reported to the Air Force team and which they could easily have verified at the local weather station. The two sergeants were very much aware of the 4 inches of snow still present in the field and through which they which informs us that between these dates the total precipitation (8.7 inches of rain, 2.3 inches of snow water) exactly 1

At 1000 hours, 11 Jan 1965, The Aerial Phenomena Section of the Foreign Technology Division received a letter (attached) from a civilian regarding an alleged landing of an unidentified flying object in Harrisonburg, Virginia on 21 Dec 64. The letter indicated that the witness's car had stalled and that radioactivity was present in the landing area. This radiation had been verified by one [REDACTED] of Eastern Mennonite College. Upon receipt of this letter a telephone call was made to [REDACTED] to verify the alleged incident and to determine if a check had been made on radiation. [REDACTED] stated that he had checked the area on 30 December with a geiger counter and that this check showed radioactive returns.

In view of the report of radioactivity and car stalling it was decided that an investigative team be sent from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to conduct an official investigation of the reported incident. At 1600, 11 Jan 65 TSgt David N Moody and SSgt Harold T Jones departed W-P AFB for Harrisonburg, Virginia (Orders Attached).

An investigation was conducted on 12 Jan 65 and the following information was obtained. At 0900 a telephone call was made to [REDACTED] home and Sgt Moody was informed that he was in class at Eastern Mennonite College. Subsequent contact was made and an appointment for an interview with the witness, Mr [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] was arranged for 1330, 12 Jan. At 1330 Sgt Moody and Sgt Jones arrived at [REDACTED] gunshop at [REDACTED] in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Shortly thereafter [REDACTED] man and a student from Eastern Mennonite College arrived. This party then departed for the area of the sighting. The alleged landing site was on U S Route #250 between Waynesboro and Staunton, near Fishersville, Virginia. During the drive of approximately forty-five minutes the witness reported the essential details of his observation. Upon arrival at the landing site pictures were taken of the area and the reported path and description of the object were given by [REDACTED]. (Copies Attached)

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT

The object was reported as tremendous in size, about eighty to ninety feet high and 125 feet in diameter. The shape corresponded to a large beehive. (Drawing Attached). No color was reported, the object being described only as dark. When asked if colors of the cars and other objects could be identified, Mr Burns stated that they could. He stated that the light condition at the time of the sighting was such that colors of the cars and other objects could be identified. No features such as doors, windows, means of propulsion or other characteristics were noted with the exception of a narrow band of light surrounding the object about six feet from the ground. This band of light was about 12 inches in diameter which would have been above a man standing on the ground adjacent to the object. No rays were noted and the light was described as fluorescent. Mr [REDACTED] did not think the light could have been caused by a heat source. It was not similar to a welders torch or other flame. This light did not change in intensity. It was not an extremely bright light and the edges were sharply defined.

MOTION OF OBJECT

The object was first observed through the windshield in the upper left hand corner. Object approached from the North at an altitude higher than a transmission

waded in their low shoes for half an hour, although I had urged them, on their long-distance call from Ohio, to come prepared with galoshes.

Also missing from their report is any reference to the fact that two research engineers (Messrs. Cook and Funk, used to Geiger counter work), had witnessed the radioactivity of the landing area. Curiously, the sergeants evinced no interest in talking to these two engineers, both of whom live within a few miles of the area. However, Sergeant Moody mentions in his report that copies of several Richmond Times-Dispatch articles are attached, including one written by Reporter Dallas Kersey on January 16 for the January 17 issue. Moody does not quote from the article, but he can hardly have missed reading the following:

Nine days after Burns said he saw the 80 to 90-foot object, Gehman took a Geiger counter to the site to check for radiation. He knew that other reported UFO's have given off radiation.

Gehman got a "tremendously high reading" of radiation, and his finding has been verified by H. M. Cook of Staunton, a research engineer at Waynesboro's DuPont plant. Gehman "was having a tizzy because the needle was all the way off the dial," said Cook, who has had considerable experience with Geiger counters in his work.

"It was a hot area," Cook said. "We spent 45 minutes in the field trying to tone this reading down. We checked the radium dials on our watches, even went over a small hill from the field, but this was definitely an accurate reading. The only thing I can say is that it was hot (radioactive)."

Another curious juggling of the facts appears near the bottom of page 2 as follows: (This refers again to the Air Force report)

"Examination of the field showed that grass and brittle weeds stems had not been depressed or broken over any large area. There was no indication that a large vehicle or object of any significant weight had landed in the field."

How could they make such a statement, when the facts are that the meadow, of good quality grass, had been mowed and there were no brittle weed stems in the field anywhere, to be depressed or broken down? And as for the grass, how could the Sergeants know that it had not been depressed, since it was covered with 4 inches of snow when they were there? The photograph, widely published, taken by Mr. Kersey of Sergeant Moody and Horace Burns bending over the Air Force Survey Meter, eloquently proves the presence of at least 4 inches of snow. Yes!!

Again, on page 3 of their report they refer twice to the reading I had obtained on the Geiger counter, once that it was 60,000 counts per minute, which is correct, but later this is equated with "60,000 mr/hr on the check by Dr. Gehman," but this would multiply the radiation I found by 120. And they quote Major James Sproul as stating (apparently on the basis of this misinformation) that such radioactive strength deposited on December 21 should yield a positive return on January 12, which is without a doubt correct. But following on Major Sproul's statement, the report says, ". . . there is no alternative but to disregard the Geiger counter returns taken by Dr. Gehman." In this way they disposed of the problem indicated by their opening sentence in their paragraph on radiation: "The most pertinent fact in the alleged landing was the Geiger counter reading taken by Dr. Gehman."

Air Force

Two questions continually linger in my mind: First, was the Beta-Gamma Survey Meter really the proper instrument to use, if the radiation might have been mainly or only of alpha rays? And, second, was their particular instrument, which Sergeant Moody always held down close to the ground, really designed to discover radiation in a wide, general area? Was it not rather designed for use after the source of the rays has already been pretty definitely pinpointed? (Cf. photo on page 2 of Jan. 14 Richmond Times-Dispatch.)

In this Air Force report there are a number of other curious errors and misjudgments of fact, such as their saying that the UFO had crossed Route 250 "at an altitude higher than a transmission power line to the left of the highway. These telephone (sic) poles are approximately 75 feet in height. Descent of the object was at an angle and the object appeared to be spinning slightly." Now it happens that those Virginia Electric Power Company poles are declared by VEPCO personnel to be 34 feet in height, which is not even half as high as was estimated by the Sergeants. If they had missed this estimate by 5 or even 10 feet, it could be overlooked, but to miss it by 40 feet is more than one hopes for from technically trained members of a responsible investigating team. And as to the "spinning" of the UFO, we have heard Mr. Burns say repeatedly, as he said in answer to Sergeant Moody's question that day, that he did not notice any spinning.

The report contains a number of other such discrepancies. For a quick run-down of some of these, note:

Page 1: (a) Sergeant Moody called my home at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 12, instead of at 9:00 a.m. as he says in his report to his superiors. Small matter? Perhaps. When he called at 11:30 he told Mrs. Gehman that they had just arrived at a local motel and needed to shave and wash up and eat before we could get together, which we did at 1:30.

(b) Describing the UFO: "The band of light was about 12 inches in diameter." He should have said "in width."

Page 2: (a) "The object rose straight up, tilted at an angle and shot off into space . . ." Mr. Burns had told him: "shot off in a northeasterly direction." It had come from the north.

(b) "Direction of departure was about sixty degrees to the right of its approach." However, the angle between north and northeast is not 60 but 45 degrees.

(c) "Dr. E. G. Gehman stated that he had contacted occupants of the adjacent farmhouses and that they had seen or heard nothing." Correct, but since the Sergeants accepted and reported this fact, why not also my much more extended testimony of the two research engineers who shared my Geiger counter investigation with me?

(d) "Dr. Gehman is head of a local UFO Hobby Club and has appeared on several local radio programs in the area." The UFO Investigators are a serious group of college students conducting a scientific inquiry on the locally reported UFO phenomena. I have never appeared on a local radio program on the subject of UFOs, although WSVA on Dec. 27 announced the existence of this extracurricular organization at Eastern Mennonite College.

Page 3: (a) "At no time during the thirty minutes of investigation was the highway empty of cars." This can be challenged, for all of us were intent on Sergeant Moody's Geiger counter, as he also was. No one was consistently observing the highway traffic. JONES!!

(b) Regarding Mr. Burns: "Without a thorough psychiatric examination no positive conclusion regarding hallucination is possible. The witness's

reliability is not questioned." This seems like contradictory testimony. How can one consider a witness reliable, if one also suspects that he may have hallucinations? But since Mr. Burns' simple, frank testimony has through these weeks been consistent and unshaken under sometimes severe cross-questioning, even heckling, possibly it is not he who should have a thorough psychiatric examination.

(c) The Air Force report states, as quoted above: "There ~~are/are~~/~~no/other~~ witnesses" to the Burns' sighting. While it is true that at the time of the Air Force team's visit we did not know of any other persons who had seen the same UFO, yet two days later Mr. Kersey interviewed a 14-year-old high-school boy, Kenneth Norton, of Staunton, who saw a large UFO traveling rapidly over the city in the direction from which Horace Burns saw it coming. This sighting by Kenneth occurred on the same day just a few minutes before the landing seen by Burns. The boy called to his mother to come to see the object. His parents corroborate their son's story as to date and time of sighting. A fuller account of this and of the sighting in the air by another father and son and another man, of the UFO, apparently immediately after it had left the landing site on Route 250, are told in Reporter Kersey's January 15 and 17 Richmond Times-Dispatch articles. Sergeant Moody had at least the article of the 17th, as mentioned earlier, but, without looking into these reports at all, he could blandly say, "There were no additional witnesses."

This paper does not exhaust the inconsistencies and discrepancies in the Air Force report of its "official investigation," one or two of which the writer plans to take up with Sergeant Moody personally, but all of them together constitute strong proof that the investigation and subsequent ~~report~~ were considerably less than fair and open-minded. In consequence, a good many people in the Shenandoah Valley feel that if other Air Force investigations of UFO reports may be judged by this one, then the general reputation that the Aerial Phenomena Section of the Air Force, Project Blue Book, has on the subject is by no means undeserved.

While on the whole we have a very high regard for the United States Air Force, its tremendous responsibilities for the safety of our country, its capabilities, standards, and, by no means least, its personnel, yet we cannot help feeling that the Aerial Phenomena Section of the Foreign Technology Division would do well to seriously overhaul its principles, its methodology, and some of its personnel.

Signed:

Ernest G. Gehman

Ernest G. Gehman
Professor of German
Sponsor of UFO Investigators
Eastern Mennonite College
Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA

DEARBORN OBSERVATORY
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201
23 February 1965

Major Hector Quintanilla
Foreign Technology Division
Box 9494
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Major:

I am enclosing a toasted copy of a APRO bulletin. Please notice the reported Holloman Air Force Base case. This is the sort of case which prompts charges of Air Force secrecy, and I feel that it would be very wise to track this one down to its lair if at all possible. Apparently there was some conversation between the bomber pilot and the tower which the radio amateur accidentally overheard, but things like that can't get nipped in the bud at the very beginning. It gives an awful lot of grist for the mill of APRO, etc. I don't know what can be done at this late date, but at the very least, the radio amateur and the newspaper reporter should be contacted to see just what the original stimulus was.

I am also enclosing a toasted copy of a note from Mr. ██████████. He was the one who reported the Toledo case which was rather similar to the Monticello case. I have asked him to get some pictures made of the terrain around there at a nominal cost if necessary.

Reference 13 August 1964, 200 miles east of Dover (Atlantic): would it be possible to get the names of the crew members concerned? I would like to write to them and have each one give me a completely independent statement and drawing of what they reportedly saw. If this can be done, we may be able to take this off the unidentified list. Apparently these people were between two cloud decks and saw an object approaching them. It might have been a relatively stationary balloon which they were overtaking and passed. Since everything over the Atlantic is carefully checked by radar, this is a puzzler, and it would be very interesting to get the comments of the individual crew members. I would like to find out how bright the object appeared and also whether they ever saw it to the rear of the plane.

Last Sunday I took occasion while loafing around to call this German professor at the Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Virginia. This is the case, you will remember, that Dave and Sgt. Jones investigated. I also called ██████████ because I wanted to get straight on two points. One was how they would explain the fact that no one else on a well traveled road would not have seen the object and also by talking to get a possible line on their personality quirks.

Gamen gave ██████████ a completely clean bill of health which, of course, I expected. Gamen seems to be a little displeased with the counter Dave was using and asked me why Dave kept setting it back to zero whenever it showed a large reading! He also wanted to know how, when the ground was covered with four inches of snow, Dave could say categorically, that there were no traces of anything having landed.

The field is apparently mowed, and he maintains that even without the snow a landing in a stubble field would be hard to detect. He also said that there were several other witnesses, but they did not want their names used. I told him that it would be very important to get the testimony of such witnesses because otherwise it was his word against the rest of the world. He said he would continue to investigate. He also said that he would send me a copy of the report he turned in to NICAP. When I get it, I shall send you a toasted copy. Gamen's feeling about the well-traveled road was simply that the road is not always well traveled and furthermore even if there had been cars and other witnesses that in all probability no one would have wanted to say anything about it for fear of ridicule. He pointed out that it took [redacted] six days to make his initial report! So one can take that for what it is worth.

When I talked to [redacted] later in the day, he seemed a little too positive for my blood and a little too belligerent. I tried to trip him up on some fact, such as where he had said he originally saw it, however, and he invariably corrected. He said that there were no other cars on the road at the time, but, of course, in his excitement, I doubt that he would have noticed had there been a whole caravan. I think we need a psychiatrist here. What does a person need to eat to see a traveling beehive? Nonetheless, this will be one of NICAP's select cases. They simply will not believe the "psychological category" classification. So much for that.

→ *Cheer -*

Albe

P. S. Other material
has been sent separately.
I'm on my way west!

TAB A Letter from ██████████, 6 Jan 65
TAB B Orders Directing TDY to Harrisonburg, Va
TAB C Drawing of Object
TAB D News Clippings
TAB E Map of Area
TAB F Miscellaneous Materials
1. Photos of Area
2. Geiger Counter Check
3. Various Notes and Letters

Broadway, Virginia
January 6, 1965

U.F.O. Investigation Office
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Gentlemen:

I have a good friend at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Virginia, [REDACTED] Gehman, who is interested in U.F.O.'s. He told me that on December 21, 1964, a Mr. [REDACTED] was traveling on the highway between Staunton and Waynesboro about 5 P.M. when his car suddenly stalled and as he drifted to a stop off the pavement a large flat bottomed, circular and dome shaped object passed directly overhead, crossing the highway and gently settled to earth about 100 yards away. He judged the object to be about 125 feet in diameter.

I have no more details of the shape; however, he said it had a grey-blue glow around the perimeter. It sat there about 30 seconds and suddenly rose and left the area heading toward the mountain at a terrific speed. He got back in his car and the motor started promptly so he drove away very shaken up.

This is probably routine to you, but the significant point is that [REDACTED] acquired a Geiger counter from the college, took Mr. [REDACTED] and had him show him the area. This was on December 26, 1964. The Geiger counter showed intense radioactivity in the spot where Mr. [REDACTED] saw the object land. No doubt the area is still radioactive.

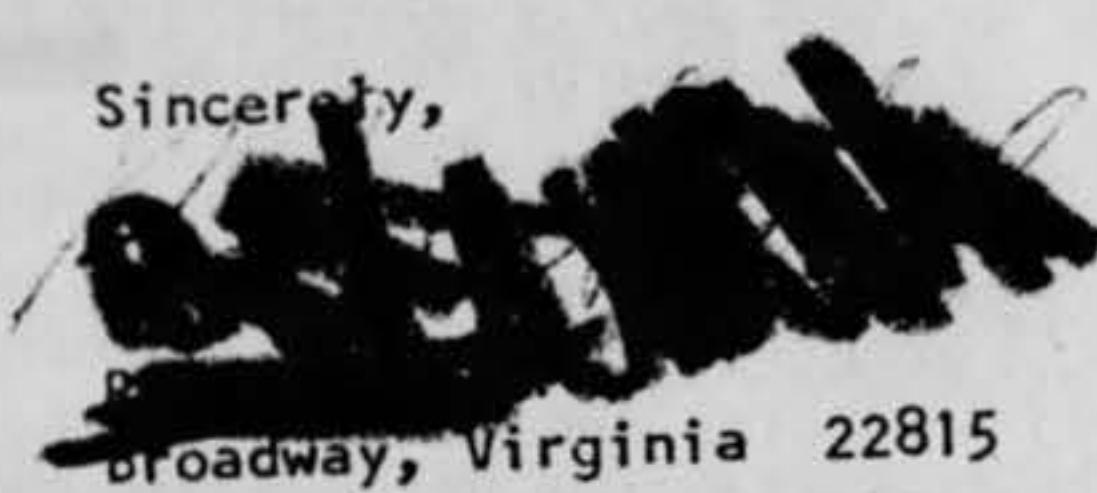
Dr. Gehman did not say what type of rays were present, but this should be of some help to you.

-2-

Mr. [REDACTED] has a [REDACTED] in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
Dr. [REDACTED] on the faculty at Eastern Mennonite
College, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,



[REDACTED]
broadway, Virginia 22815

RLS/ss

REQUEST FOR TEMPORARY DUTY TRAVEL OF MILITARY PERSONNEL (If more space is required, continue on reverse, identifying units by number.)		1f j1 D 11 Jan 1965
I. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION		
TO: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HQ FTD FROM: (Requesting Authority) TDEW		1. REQUEST TDY BE AUTHORIZED AS INDICATED IN ITEMS 5 THROUGH 12.
2. TYPED NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL ERIC. T. deJONCKHEERE, Colonel, USAF Dep/Technology & Subsystems		3. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL
		4. PHONE NR. (69216)
II. TEMPORARY DUTY TRAVEL ORDERS		
5. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL(S) WILL PROCEED AS INDICATED. UPON COMPLETION WILL RETURN TO PROPER STATION:		
GRADE	NAME (First name, middle initial, last name, AFSN)	ORGANIZATION
TSGT	DAVID N. MOODY, AF19549897	HQ FTD(AFSC)USAF WPAFB, OHIO
SECURITY CLEAR- ANCE FOR PERIOD OF TDY SECRET		
6. DEPART ON OR ABOUT 11 Jan 1965		7. APPROXIMATE NR. OF DAYS (Including travel time) THREE (3)
9. SPECIFY PURPOSE OF TDY To investigate an operational project.		8. DDALV
		10. ITINERARY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VARIATIONS IN ITINERARY AUTHORIZED FROM: Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio TO: HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA & vicinity
CIVILIAN CLOTHING AUTHORIZED		RETURN TO: Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio
11. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS		
12. MODES OF TRAVEL A. <input type="checkbox"/> TRAVEL BY _____ DIRECTED WHEN AVAILABLE B. <input type="checkbox"/> TPA. TIME BY COMMON CARRIER (train or bus) IS ____ DAYS. TRAVEL TIME IN EXCESS IS CHARGEABLE TO DELAY ENROUTE AUTHORIZED IN ITEM 8. C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TPA. THIS MODE OF TRANSPORTATION HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT. D. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		
III. AUTHORIZATION		
13. AUTHORITY AFM 10-3, AFM 35-11	14. DATE 11 January 1965	15. SPECIAL ORDER NR. T-96
16. DESIGNATION AND LOCATION OF APPROVING HEADQUARTERS OR UNIT Hq Foreign Technology Div(AFSC)USAF Wright-Patterson AF Base, Ohio	17. APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTING SYMBOL 5753400 3054771 P489 2133 2153 S503000 TD (O/A T65-85)(E)	
	18. DISTRIBUTION	
	19. REQUEST FOR TDY IS APPROVED AND WILL BE PERFORMED. TDN. FOR THE COMMANDER	
	20. SIGNATURE ELEMENT OF ORDERS ISSUING OFFICIAL (Seal or Signature)	
	 <p>ARTHUR M. WRIGHT, JR. Major, USAF Headquarters USAF Official Representative AFSC-USAF</p>	

REQUEST <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AUTHORIZATION FOR TEMPORARY DUTY TRAVEL O <i>(If more space is required, continue on reverse, identifying items)</i>		TEL T-97	DATE 11 Jan 1965
I. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION			
TO: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HQ FTD FROM: (Requesting Authority) TDAW		1. REQUEST TO BE AUTHORIZED AS INDICATED IN ITEMS 5 THROUGH 12.	
2. TYPED NAME, GRADE AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL ERIC T. deJONCKHEERE, Colonel, USAF Dep/Technology & Subsystems		3. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL	4. PHONE NR. (69216)
II. TEMPORARY DUTY TRAVEL ORDERS			
5. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL(S) WILL PROCEED AS INDICATED. UPON COMPLETION WILL RETURN TO PROPER STATION:			
GRADE	NAME (First name, middle initial, last name, APSN)	ORGANIZATION	SECURITY CLEAR-ANCE FOR PERIOD OF TDY
SSGT	HAROLD T. JONES, AF1345006	HQ FTD(AFSC)USAF, WPAFB, OHIO	SECRET
6. DEPART ON OR ABOUT 11 Jan 1965		7. APPROXIMATE NR. OF DAYS (Including travel time) THREE (3)	8. DDALV
9. SPECIFY PURPOSE OF TDY To investigate an operational project.		10. ITINERARY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> VARIATIONS IN ITINERARY AUTHORIZED FROM: Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio TO: HARRISBURG, VIRGINIA & VICINITY RETURN TO: Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio	
11. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS CIVILIAN CLOTHING AUTHORIZED			
12. MODES OF TRAVEL A. <input type="checkbox"/> TRAVEL BY _____ DIRECTED WHEN AVAILABLE B. <input type="checkbox"/> TPA. TIME BY COMMON CARRIER (mail or bus) IS ____ DAYS. TRAVEL TIME IN EXCESS IS CHARGEABLE TO DELAY ENROUTE AUTHORIZED IN ITEM 8. C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TPA. THIS MODE OF TRANSPORTATION HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT. D. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			
III. AUTHORIZATION			
13. AUTHORITY AFM 10-3, AFM 35-11	14. DATE 11 January 1965	15. SPECIAL ORDER NR. T-97	
16. DESIGNATION AND LOCATION OF APPROVING HEADQUARTERS OR UNIT HQ Foreign Technology Div(AFSC)USAF Wright-Patterson AF Base, Ohio	17. APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTING SYMBOL 5753400 3054771 2489 2133 2153 S503000 TD (O/A T65-85)(E)		
18. DISTRIBUTION			
19. REQUEST FOR TDY IS APPROVED AND WILL BE PERFORMED. TDN. FOR THE COMMANDER			
20. SIGNATURE ELEMENT OF ORDERS ISSUING OFFICIAL (Seal or Signature)			
<p>ARTHUR W. MILLER JR Major General USAF Administrative Officer HEADQUARTERS FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION OFFICIAL AFSC-USA</p>			

Landing and obtained a reading on the geiger counter which he indicated had a count of 60,000 counts per minute. Highway 250 has heavy traffic. At no time during the thirty minutes of investigation at the landing site was the highway empty of cars. There was constant traffic adjacent to the landing site. D[redacted] indicated that he would forward his investigative data and information on the geiger counter returns obtained by him. Further, this information was requested in a letter from this office (TDEW) on 19 Jan 65 (Copy Attached.)

The time of the sighting was reported as after dark during twilight. Lights were on M[redacted] car and on the other cars on the highway. Sunset for 21 Dec at 38° N was approximately 1645. Allowance should be made for the mountains and horizon to the West. The end of astronomical twilight on the night of 21 Dec was 1819. Apparent right Ascension of the Moon on 21 Dec at 1730 was approximately 8 hours, 41 minutes with a declination of plus 22° 6 min placing the moon below the horizon in the East, rising about 1930. On 21 Dec the moon was in full phase, however, since the moon was below the horizon it did not add to illumination of the area. Time of the sighting is estimated as shortly after 1700.

ANALYSIS

Radiation: The most pertinent fact in the alleged landing was the geiger counter reading taken by D[redacted] 9 days later. On 18 Jan 65 Project personnel consulted Major James Sproul, specialist in radiation. Major Sproul stated that radioactive isotopes deposited on 21 Dec 64 and yielding returns with a strength indicated in a news article, (60,000 mr/per hour on the check by [redacted]) would yield a positive return on 12 Jan. Since the geiger counter used by investigators trained in its use and was in good working order there is no alternative but to disregard the geiger counter returns taken by D[redacted].

CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE HALLUCINATION, PRANK OR A HOAX

a. During the conversations, interview and subsequent trip to the alleged landing area the witness appeared normal. He exhibited no indications of suffering from mental disorders. Without a thorough psychiatric examination no positive conclusion regarding hallucination is possible. The witness's reliability is not questioned.

b. Possibility of a prank or trick being played upon [redacted] was considered, since he is head of the local [redacted]. The particulars of the sighting such as car stalling and radiation and an alleged landing give rise to this speculation, however, no connection was established between Mr. [redacted] and [redacted] to account for this possibility. This cause (prank) is considered remote.

c. Possibility of a hoax was considered. There is no apparent motive. It seems unlikely that [redacted] would expose himself to ridicule if the sighting were determined to be a hoax.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a vehicle of this size would be observed by additional witnesses at the time and location of the reported event. There were no additional witnesses. There was no confirmation of radioactivity in the area. Grass and weeds had not been depressed. There was a total lack of any indication that a vehicle had landed in the field. Investigation by Air Force personnel and subsequent analysis of the data collected fails to reveal any evidence of an alleged landing.

Large UFO Reported Sighted in Augusta

By Dallas M. Kersey
Times-Dispatch News Bureau

FISHERSVILLE, Jan. 12—The reported sighting of a 80-to-90 foot unidentified flying object near here brought a two-man-air force investigating team here Tuesday to the site where the object is believed to have landed. But there was no indications that the object had been there.

The unidentified flying object (UFO) was reportedly seen by Horace Burns a gunsmith who lives at Grottoes, on December 21 while driving to Waynesboro. No one else has reported seeing the object.

After a field inspection with a Geiger counter, air force Sgt. David Moody said only that there is no radioactivity now in the area where Burns said the craft landed. He did not rule out the possibility that there could have been radiation earlier.

Burns' sighting of the UFO was reported to the air force in a letter from a resident of this area of the Shenandoah valley. Sergeant Moody said he could not disclose the name of the person. Reports of sightings have to be filed with the air force before they are investigated, he said.

Open Meadow

Sergeant Moody headed the two-man team from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, who investigated the reported sighting along U. S. Rt. 250 east of here in an open meadow near the entrance to the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center in Augusta county.

"This is an unusual sighting," said Sergeant Moody, who has had four years experience checking out similar reports. "It's not routine. If it was routine we wouldn't be here." All reports to the air force on UFO's are checked at Wright-Patterson under what is called Project Blue Book.

During his four years with Project Blue Book, Sergeant Moody said he has never run across an object of the shape described by Burns.

Burns said he was driving toward Waynesboro about 5 p.m. on Monday, December 21, when he saw a large metallic object coming out of the sky north of the highway.

Auto's Engine Stalled

As it crossed Rt. 250 about 200 feet ahead of him, his car's engine cut off "just as if I'd run out of gas." The UFO landed in the field about 100 yards from him. He got out of his car to look at the craft which resembled an upside-down ice cream cone. "It was 125 feet in diameter, at least, and 80 to 90 feet high," said Burns.

He is not sure of what material the object was made although it looked like spun aluminum, he said. Around the perimeter of the base of the machine there was a band of bluish glow about a foot wide. It had no visible windows or doors, he said.

The UFO rested in the meadow about one to one and one-half minutes, Burns said, then it suddenly rose perpendicular-ly for several hundred feet and took off in a northeasterly direction at a very fast speed. It made only a soft "whooshing sound," he said.

He was then able to restart his car. Burns said he was still shocked at seeing the object he cannot recall whether any other cars came by while the object was on the ground.

"Zero Report"

Sergeant Moody said that although his office had 16 out of 500 reports last year for which they could not find answers, Project Blue Book has had "zero reports like this. It does not conform with any known aircraft."

Ernest Gehman, professor of German at Eastern Mennonite College at Harrisonburg, who sponsors a UFO investigators club at the school, said he was contacted about Burns' sighting several days after the occurrence.

He visited the site on December 30 to take a radiation reading with a Geiger counter. He had heard that in other areas of the country where similar objects have been sighted the ground was found radio active. "It knocked the thing (needle) off the dial," Gehman said indicating a high concentration of radiation. He said his meter registered over 60,000 counts per minute.

Sergeant Moody said it is possible that the radiation, if there was any, could have worn off by now. This rules out the existence of certain types of radiation, he said.

The two servicemen, Burns, Gehman and a student at Eastern Mennonite spent about one-half hour Tuesday walking over the area where Burns said he saw the aircraft land. The field is covered with snow.

After Burns saw the UFO he told his wife about it but decided not to mention it to anyone because "they'd think I'm crazy." However, six days later by coincidence, The Times-Dispatch carried an article about Gehman's UFO club. Burns heard about it indirectly and told Gehman the entire story.

Sergeant Moody said he has no explanation for the strange happenings. "I wish I didn't would certainly ease Mr. Burns," he said.

Normally all such reports are first investigated by officials from the nearest air force base, but Moody said this was of such unusual nature that it was decided to check it directly. Once he has completed his investigation here, he will return to Wright-Patterson to report on his findings.

The investigators said that during Project Blue Book's 17-year history, only 7.7 per cent of the reported cases remain unidentified.

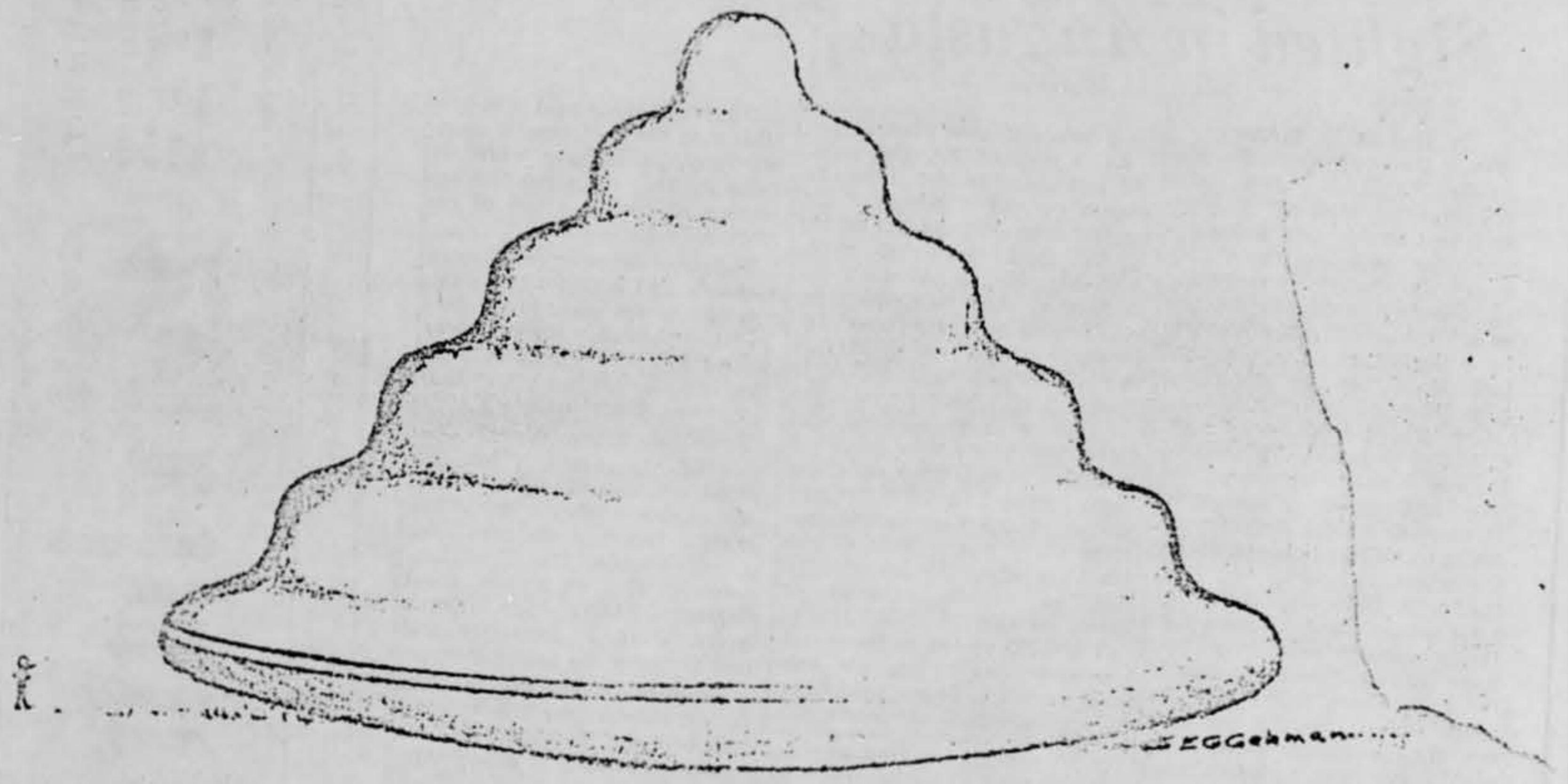
VIRGINIA: Partly cloudy today, with highs in the 40's north and near 50 south.
Local Data on Page 4

115th Year

Volume 115
Number 13

Richmond, Virginia, 23211, Wednesday, January

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH



Virginia Sheriff Warns

Watch UFO's, Just Don't Shoot At Little Green Men

RICHMOND, Va.—(AP)—At least one Virginia sheriff thinks it's okay to watch for flying saucers in the skies. Just don't shoot the little green men reported accompanying them.

"This thing has gotten completely out of hand," says Sheriff John E. Kent of Augusta County. "It is now dangerous to county residents."

Almost daily, Virginians are reporting unidentified flying objects (UFO) in several parts of the state. And some claim they have seen little Martian types wandering around on the ground.

"Anyone can go out at night," says Kent, "And see reflections in the sky. But anyone carrying firearms in the county without good reason will be dealt with according to the law.

Beside, he adds, even if creatures from space have landed—"Who's got the right to mow them down?"

Even the Air Force has gotten into the act. It has discounted any evidence confirming existence of either flying saucers or little green men. But, for the record, a spokesman adds: "Our cases are never closed until the reported objects are sufficiently identified."

Last week a pastor added his name to the growing list of persons reporting sightings. The Rev. H. Preston Robinson, pastor of the Chilhowie,

Va., Church of God, said he saw a flying saucer over downtown Marion. "It stopped 600 feet above the ground," he said, "and had a round-shaped bottom from which several lights showed."

After one reported saucer landing, professor Ernest Gehman of Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, checked the site with a Geiger counter Dec. 20. He reported a high radiation level.

Gunsmith Horace Burns of Grottoes reported in detail the sound one flying saucer made when he saw it land in Augusta county.

"It made a soft, whooshing sound," he said.

And at Staunton last Tuesday night, three boys said they saw—and chased—a small, green man near a rural road. He was described as three and a half feet tall.

The little green man was probably none other than Donald Cash, whose in-the-flesh statistics are somewhat more sizable — five-foot-eight, 190 pounds.

Cash, 36, decided to lend substance to the UFO craze by donning blue (not green) overalls and a leather cap and pushing his hair straight up.

Now he's not so sure it was the right move. Some youngsters spotted him in a field, he said, and tried to run him down. He outran them.

"But it shook me up," he said. "I didn't know what they would do if they got their hands on me."

S.W.M. Hartman

Man Tells Of Encounter With A 'Flying Saucer'

HARRISONBURG — Horace Burns told a crowd of several hundred people at Eastern Mennonite College auditorium last night about his sighting of a "flying saucer" on Dec. 21.

Burns, a Grottoes gunsmith, said he saw the object near Fishersville as he was driving from Staunton to Waynesboro on U.S. 250.

He described the object as looking like an old-fashioned beehive, with six concentric rings from bottom to top.

* * *

In Washington, Burns' description was termed "pretty typical" by Richard Hall, acting director of the National Investigating Committee on Aerial Phenomenon.

Hall said Burns' report that his car engine stopped when the saucer passed in front of him is also fairly common.

"This electro-magnetic effect has been reported several times," Hall said, in reports of unidentified flying objects (UFO) and that the first such report was made in 1957.

UFO reports are becoming more numerous, Hall said, the latest having reportedly been seen Monday over Washington by six people. A naval air station tracked an object by radar Dec. 29 and reported it was traveling 4,800 miles an hour, he added.

Prof. Ernest Gehman of Eastern Mennonite College told the crowd at Harrisonburg that at least four other people saw the same UFO that Burns reported, but are reluctant to make public statements for fear of ridicule.

Gehman said he received a telephone call yesterday from a Staunton man whose son supposedly saw the object Burns described.

The boy made a sketch, which closely resembled Burn's description, Gehman said.

* * *

Burns said the object was dark-colored and appeared to be metallic but he could not be certain. There were no obvious doors or windows on the craft, he said.

No searchs were visible and although there was no apparent means of control or guidance, he said he was certain it had intelligent direction. The UFO landed, Burns said, in a field near the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center at Fishersville.

It rested on the ground for about one-and-a-half minutes then rose slowly in the air for several hundred feet then suddenly shot off at a 90 degree turn to the northeast at a very rapid pace.

Burns said Thursday night there was no evidence of heat or turbulence at the base of the vehicle. He said he was frightened when he saw the object and said it was as big as two ordinary houses.

* * *

Several hundred persons filled the seats at the Eastern Mennonite College auditorium and some stood in the aisles to hear the report.

Burns withstood a barrage of questions—some indicating a great deal of skepticism without contradicting his story. The craft settled on the field "as lightly as a bubble." When the object stopped in front of him, the gunsmith said, his car's motor stopped as if it had run out of gasoline.

Burns said Thursday he regrets he didn't investigate the field after the object departed.

Prof. Gehman said he examined the landing area with a Geiger counter and found it to be highly radioactive. One area, he said, caused the needle to jump off the register and he had to take the plate glass off to clean it before he could begin measuring the radiation. The needle again jumped off the register, the professor said, and upon closer examination found that a piece of radioactive grass less than an inch long was causing the needle to react so radically.

Prof. Gehman again adjusted the needle, he said, and then walked over the area holding the counter five feet off the ground and it still registered very high.

A team of Air Force investigators from Wright-Patterson Air Base, Dayton, Ohio, came to Fishersville Jan. 7 to study the case but found no evidence of radiation in the area—some

three weeks after the sighting.

The Air Force specialists said however that the radioactivity could have dissipated between the time of the landing and the time of their investigation.

However, the airmen reported a significant radiation reading on the left side of Burns' automobile.

Burns said when the object passed over him he felt a definite force exerted on his automobile as if he had been struck

by a blast of air.

Prof. Gehman said he has a witness to his Geiger counter readings who is an engineer at Du Pont in Waynesboro. The engineer told Gehman he knows of at least three other people who sighted the object but have been reluctant to report it.

"I think it is a tragedy that people are so reluctant to tell us something which could be so significant to the human race," Gehman said.

"I can't help feeling there is a prophetic significance to these sightings," he added. Gehman said it could possibly foretell the second coming of Christ. He quoted a passage from the New Testament which said there will be signs in the heavens before Christ returns to earth.

Werner Will, assistant German teacher at the college, said that the faculty thinks this is "a big hoax. We are not beginning to believe it at all."

S.W.M. Hartman

More UFO
~~not signs shape~~
Sightings

Are Reported

WAYNESBORO (AP) — Three more sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO) in the Waynesboro-Staunton area were reported today.

Mrs. Marguerite Bolton of Waynesboro said today she saw a round, orange-colored object

Related Story on Page 14.

with silver-like prongs in the sky as she rode home in a cab last night. She said the car driver also saw the object.

The Lester Hogshead family of Rt. 2 Waynesboro reported it saw an object at 6 p.m. on U.S. 250 west of Waynesboro.

Kenneth Norton Jr., 14, a Staunton high school student reported Thursday he saw a cigar-shaped UFO at about 4:40 p.m. Dec. 21.

That was the same day Horace Burns of Grottoes said he saw an object land beside U.S. 250 between Waynesboro and Staunton. Burns, who did not report the sighting for several weeks, said the object—which looked like an upside down ice cream cone—landed in a meadow for a minute or so then took off at a high rate of speed.

Last night 8-year-old Bruce Hogshead ran into his home and asked, "Mama, do you want to see a flying saucer?" The family went into a woods about a quarter of a mile away and watched the UFO for about five minutes.

The parents and five children are reported to have watched the bright object hover above the ground for five minutes. Then, like a "snap of the finger," it disappeared.

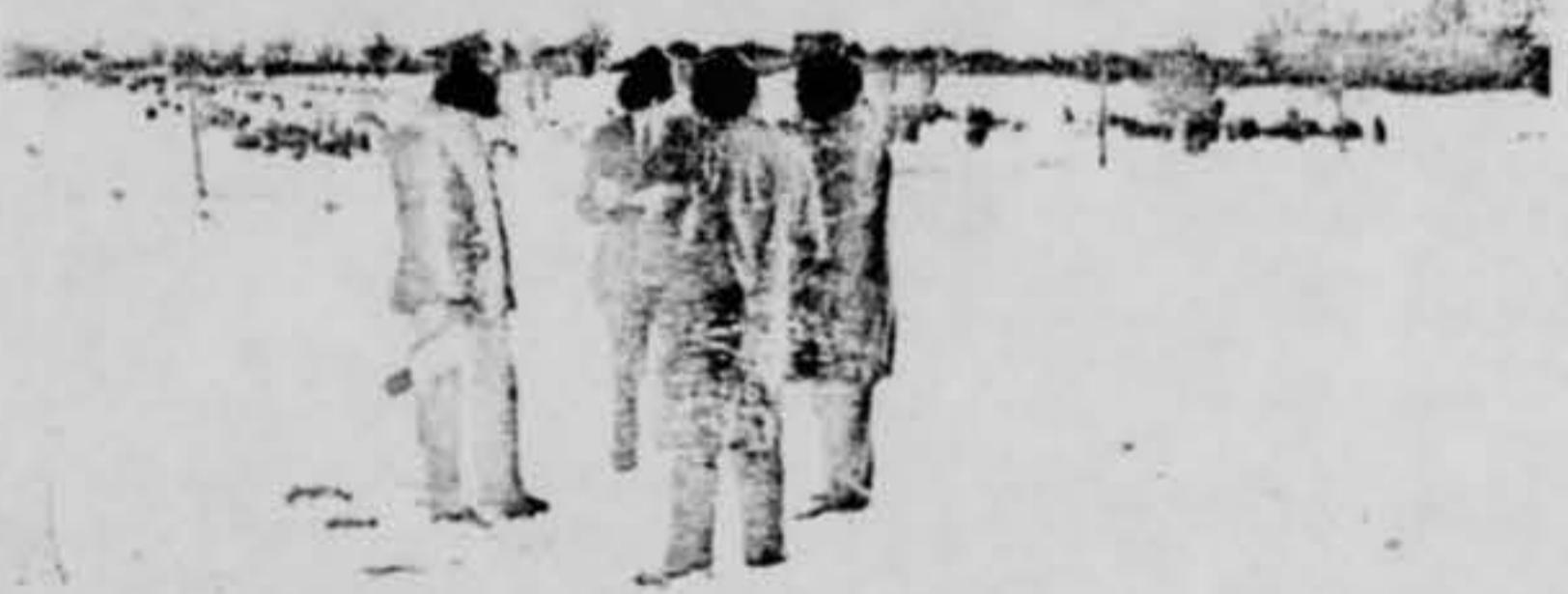
Young Norton said he saw the object last month from his bedroom window. His family withheld information until Burns reported his sighting on the same day.

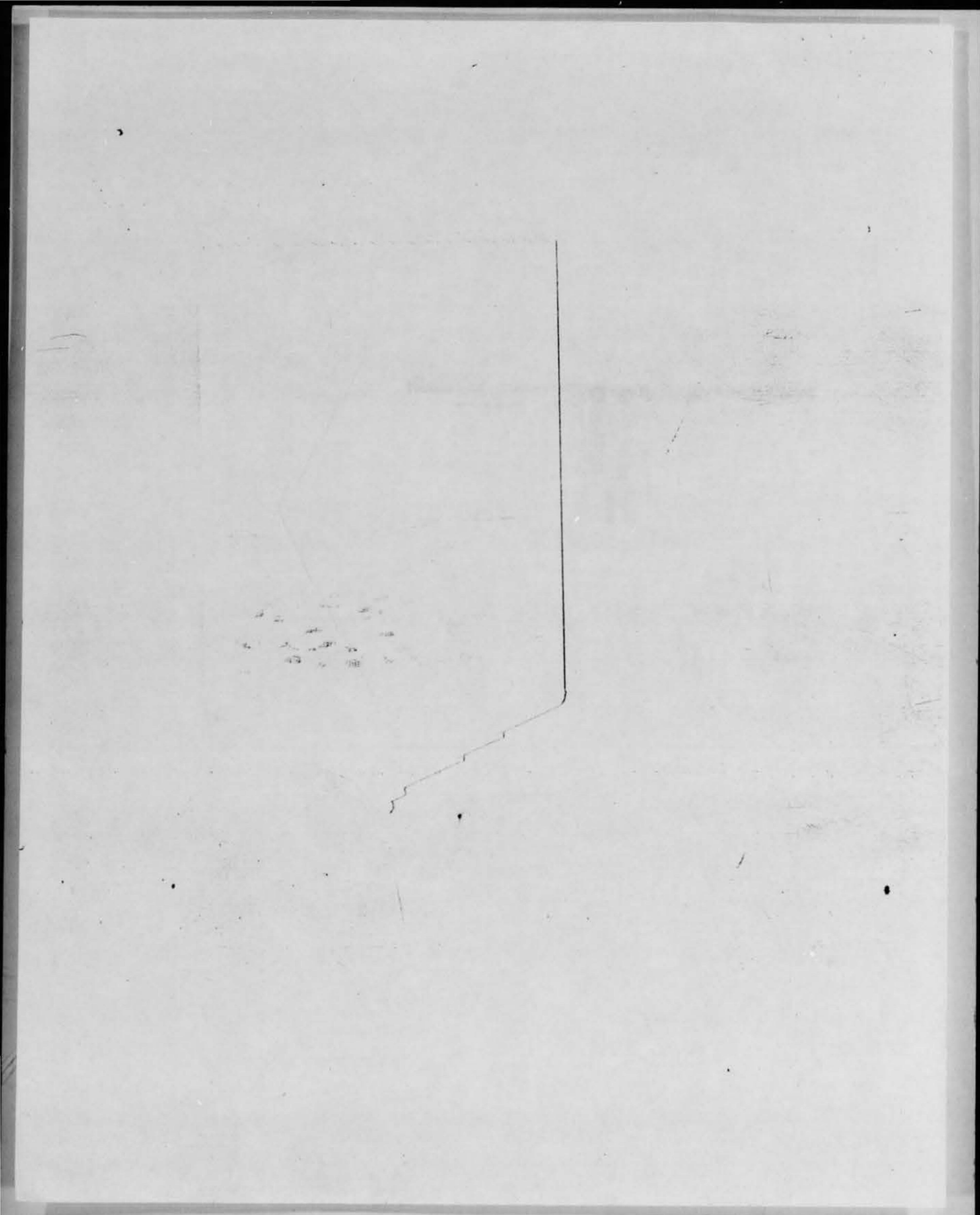
Cigar Shape



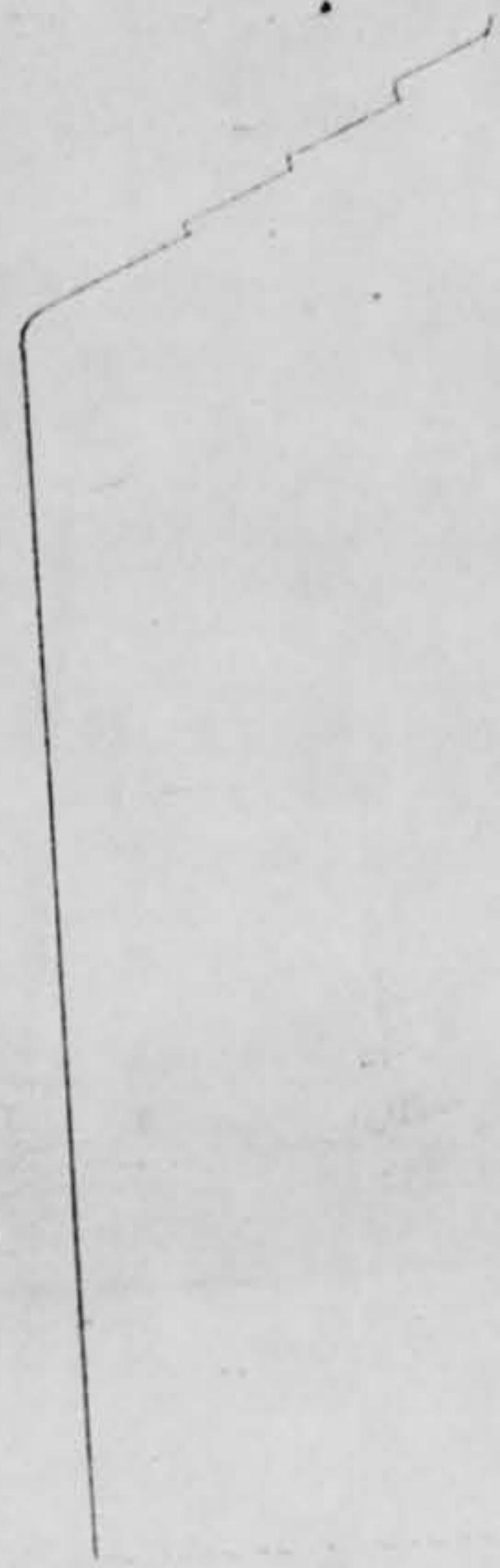
A. JOB CONT NO. R-58740	B. PRI	C. TIME SPEC REQ	D. WK AREA	E. EST M/H/F.	F. ORIG RPT NO.	G. REPORT NO. 03422 J	H.	I.
1. WEAPON TMS	2. SERIAL NO.	3. TIME	4. WORK CENTER	5. WORK ORDER NO.	6. DAY MO. YR.	7. WORK UNIT CODE		
IA. AGE WUC	2A. SERIAL NO.	3A. TIME	8. ACT TAKEN	9. WHEN DIS 10. HOW MAL	11. UNITS	12. LABOR HRS.	13. ASST. WORK CEN	
1B. ENG TM PSN	2B. SER MOD YR-MFG SER NO.	3B. TIME	14. INST ENG TM PSN	15. SER MOD YR-MFG SER NO.	16. TIME			
1C. ITEM FSC 6665	2C. PART NO. 2586	3C. SERIAL NO. 1203	17. INST ITEM PT NO.	18. SERIAL NO.	19. TIME			
J. SYMBOL	K. DISCREPANCY DUE CALIBRATION.	L. CORRECTIVE ACTION BLDG 828 TDEW (6926/66378)						
		27 Jun 17 JUNE 64						
BLDG 828 6926/66378		CORRECTED BY-SIGNATURE & GRADE						
		DISCOVERED BY-SIGNATURE & GRADE DAVID Moody T/Sgt.	INSPECTED BY-SIG & GRADE			SUPERVISOR-SIG & GRADE		
RECORDS ACTION <input type="checkbox"/> UNCLEARED <input type="checkbox"/> DISCREPANCY		<input type="checkbox"/> REPLACEMENT TIME CHANGE ITEM	<input type="checkbox"/> DATA TRANSCRIBED TO APPROP RECORDS	DATE TRANSCRIBED		TRANSCRIBED BY-SIGNATURE & GRADE		

AFTO FORM 211/ JUL 60 EDITION IS OBSOLETE MAINTENANCE DISCREPANCY/PRODUCTION CREDIT RECORD
OCT 61 JUL 61 EDITION MAY BE USED 1









power line to the left of the highway. These telephone poles are approximately 75 ft in height. Descent of the object was at an angle and the object appeared to be spinning slightly. No sound was heard. The car of the witness stopped as though the car had ran out of gas. The car proceeded about 50 ft down the road and Mr Burns pulled the car to the side of the road. The object crossed the road about 100 yds in front of the car and landed in a field to the right about 100 yds from the highway. Total time of the landing portion of the reported observation was approximately 15 seconds, plus or minus five. The object was reported to have landed in a field and remained there in excess of one minute but less than two minutes. Mr Burns got out of the car, walked around to the front of it and stood on the side of the road and looked at the object. At no time was any sound heard. The object rose straight up to an estimated altitude of about 200 ft, tilted at an angle and shot off into space, disappearing in a matter of a few seconds. Direction of departure was about sixty degrees to the right of its approach. A whoosing sound accompanied departure. There was no exhaust or contrail noted.

CHECK FOR RADIATION

A thorough geiger counter check of the area was made. At no time was a reading obtained to indicate any radioactivity above normal background radiation. The dial on the watch of the college student with [REDACTED] indicated a reading of 1.5/mr. Subsequent to return from Fishersville the car of Mr [REDACTED] was checked with the geiger counter also. (59 mercury station wagon). The only reading obtained was a reading on the left rear door similar to the returns from the students wrist watch (1.5/mr). The check for radiation was made with a Model 2586, Beta-Gama Survey Meter, manufactured by the Nuclear-Chicago Corporation, serial number 1203. This instrument had been calibrated and was in good working order. On 15 Jan 65 this instrument was checked for accuracy and a calibration check on report number 03422J was made and the geiger counter found to be in good working order. The range of the instrument is 0-2500 mr/hr.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

During the investigation at the alleged landing site, Mr Dallas M Kersey news reporter from the Shenandoah Valley News Bureau, P O Box 846, Staunton, Virginia arrived at the site. A copy of an article under his byline furnished to the Richmond Times Dispatch appeared on the following day and a subsequent article carried on 16 January 1965. Copies of these articles are attached.

ADDITIONAL DATA

Examination of the field showed that grass and brittle weeds stems had not been depressed or broken over any large area. There was no indication that a large vehicle or object of any significant weight had landed in the field. Dr [REDACTED] stated that he had contacted occupants of the adjacent farm houses and they had seen or heard nothing. [REDACTED] has appeared on several local radio programs in the area. It was because of one of these radio programs that [REDACTED] stated that he had revealed his observation. The object had been observed on 21 Dec 64 by [REDACTED] and he contacted [REDACTED] on 29 Dec. On 30 Dec [REDACTED] went to the area of the alleged

Broadway, Virginia
January 6, 1965

U.F.O. Investigation Office
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio

Gentlemen:

I have a good friend at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg, Virginia, [REDACTED] who is interested in U.F.O.'s. He told me that on December 21, 1964, a Mr. [REDACTED] was traveling on the highway between Staunton and Waynesboro about 5 P.M. when his car suddenly stalled and as he drifted to a stop off the pavement a large flat bottomed, circular and dome shaped object passed directly overhead, crossing the highway and gently settled to earth about 100 yards away. He judged the object to be about 125 feet in diameter.

I do not know more details of the shape; however, he said it had a red-blue glow around the perimeter. It sat there about 30 seconds and suddenly rose and left the area heading toward the mountain at a terrific speed. He got back in his car and the motor started promptly so he drove away very shaken up.

This is probably routine to you but the significant point is that [REDACTED] acquired a Geiger counter from the college, took Mr. [REDACTED] and had him show him the area. This was on December 26, 1964. The Geiger counter showed intense radioactivity in the spot where [REDACTED] the object landed. No doubt the area is still radioactive.

[REDACTED] did not say what type or elements were present, but this should be of some help to you.

[REDACTED], Eastern Mennonite College,
Harrisonburg, Virginia

[REDACTED] home phone

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

FTD (TDEW)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433
19 January 1965

[REDACTED]
Eastern Mennonite College
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Dear Sir,

Before the complete evaluation of the [REDACTED] sighting of 21 Dec 64 can be made we feel that the information on your check for radioactivity should be reviewed. Consultation with experts in the field of radiation indicates that radiation deposits on 21 Dec 64 and giving a count indicated by you on 30 Dec 64 would yield returns at present. If possible we would like to have the information on the geiger counter which you used and the data regarding your interviews with witnesses at the adjacent farm houses. To date the only indication of an actual observation is the reported radiation registered during your check of the landing sight. We are enclosing a self-addressed envelope for your convenience in replying.

Sincerely,

DAVID N MOODY
TSgt, USAF
NCOIC, Aerial Phenomena Branch

(OFFICIAL FILE COPY

-2-

Mr. [REDACTED] has a [REDACTED] in Harrisonburg, Virginia.
Dr. [REDACTED] is on the faculty at Eastern Mennonite
College, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Sincerely



[REDACTED]

Broadway, Virginia 22815

RLS/ss

OFFICIAL FILE COPY

FTD (TDEW)
Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433
27 January 1965

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Harrisonburg, Virginia

Dear Mr [REDACTED],

Reference your reported sighting of 21 Dec 64. We are enclosing our report on this observation for your information.

Sincerely,

DAVID N MOODY
TSgt, USAF
NCOIC, Aerial Phenomena Branch

1 Atch
Rpt on Harrisonburg
21 Dec 64 sighting

cc: D [REDACTED]

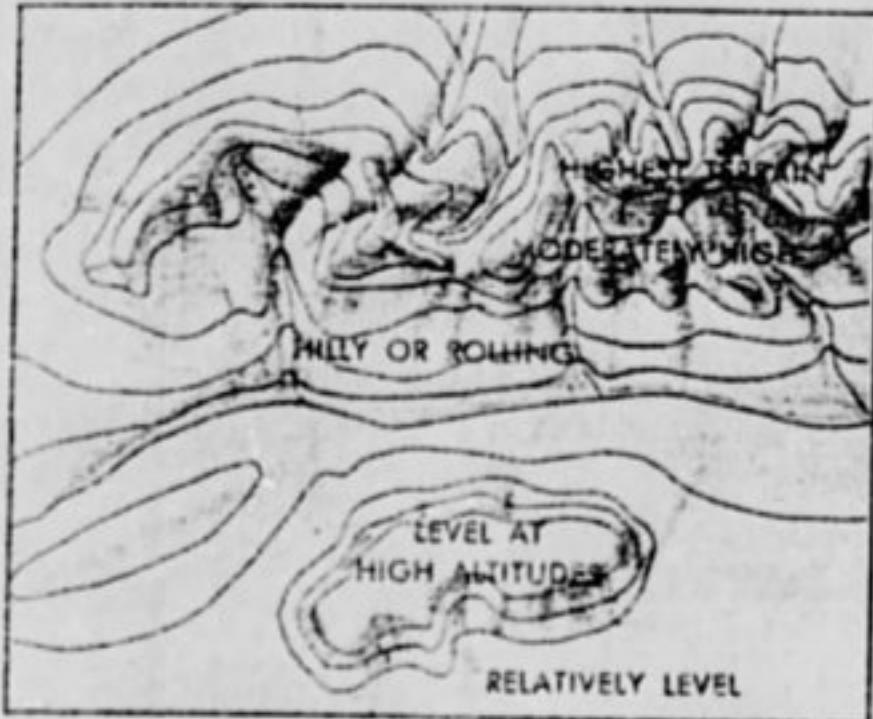
ONC 358

LEGEND

RELIEF PORTRAYAL

Elevations are in feet. HIGHEST TERRAIN elevation is 6313 feet located at 36°06'N 82°07'W

TERRAIN CHARACTERISTIC TINTS
(areas of unreliable relief are devoid of tint)



Land forms are shown by contours, three dimensional shading, and terrain color tints. Green indicates flat or relatively level areas in the lower elevations. Flat areas at higher elevations, such as plateaus, are shown by a yellow/green. The light buff and yellow colors indicate hilly and rolling to mountainous terrain. Two bands of yellow are used at higher elevations to help identify mountain ranges and/or critical tops.

CONTOUR INTERVAL

1000 feet with intermediates at 500 feet
(Auxiliaries are shown at intervals of 100 feet)

— 1000 — 500 — 700 —
Contours Intermediate Auxiliary

Dashed contours indicate approximate alignment

SPOT ELEVATIONS

Elevation and position accurate, maximum vertical error 100 feet.0000
Position accurate, maximum possible vertical error 200 feet4000
Approximate or doubtful locations are indicated by omission of the point locator (dot or "x").
Critical elevation0000
Lake elevation0000
Stream elevation000

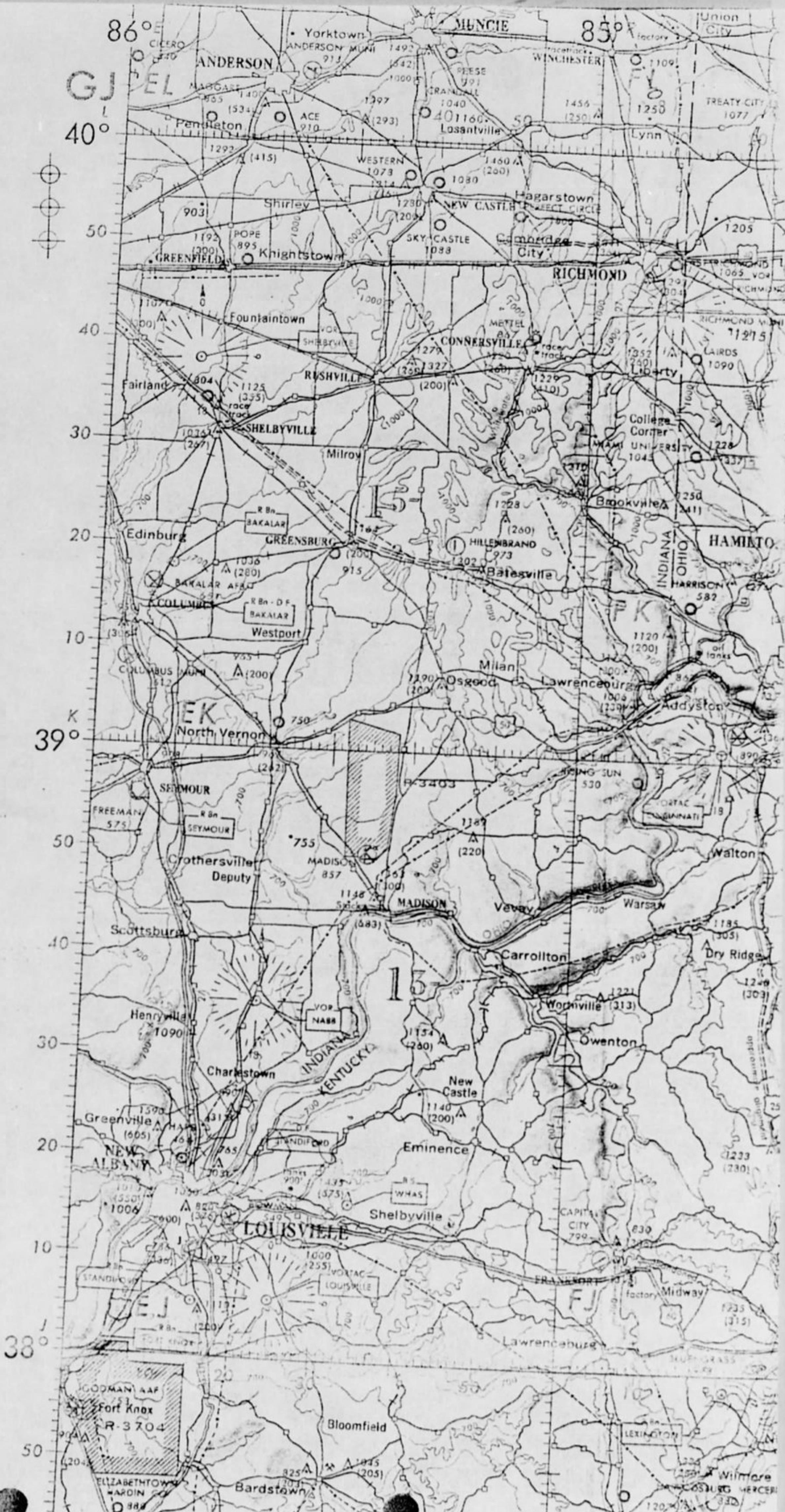
MAXIMUM ELEVATION DATA

Maximum elevation figures, centered in the area bounded by ticked lines of longitude and latitude, indicate the HIGHEST TERRAIN ELEVATION within that area. These figures include the maximum possible vertical error of elevations, BUT DO NOT INCLUDE ELEVATION OF VERTICAL OBSTRUCTIONS. A minus sign (-) following the figure indicates that the figure is based on an estimated elevation. MAXIMUM ELEVATION FIGURES ARE OMITTED IN UNSURVEYED AREAS AND AREAS WHERE RELIEF INFORMATION IS INADEQUATE.

31 61-
3100 feet.... 6100 feet.... (estimated)

CULTURE

Actual city outline
Towns and villages
Landmark features ranch (unillustrated)
(unlabeled symbol indicates drive-in theater)
Dual lane and other roads
Tracks or trails
Multiple and single track R.R.
Power transmission line



Some Believe, Some Doubt

UFO Story

By Dallas M. Kersey
Times-Dispatch News Bureau

STAUNTON, Jan. 16—A short, stout middle-aged man was at a hardware store in Staunton four days before Christmas buying supplies for the gunshop he owns in Harrisonburg. At 4:30 p.m. he left the city headed east on U. S. Rt. 250 on the way to his home at Grottoes.

About eight miles out of Staunton one-half hour later, Horace Burns said he noticed a gigantic dark object floating in from the north, cross Rt. 250 about 200 feet ahead of him and land gently in a field "like a bubble" for several seconds before taking off at a tremendous rate of speed.

Burns said the object apparently caused the engine of his car to stop.

Burns was "astonished" at the time. He told his wife about it but the family decided to keep the story a secret "because I thought people would think I'm crazy." But after hearing of other similar sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFO's) in the Shenandoah valley he decided to tell his story publicly.

Since the episode was told in The Times-Dispatch Wednesday, Burns has been called "crazy" and "nuts" many times. But he also has believers, many of whom doubted the existence of UFO's in the past.

UFO Club

One of his most ardent believers, for good reason, is Ernest Gehman, professor of German at Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg. He is sponsor of a recently formed UFO club at the college which investigates stories similar to Burns'.

Nine days after Burns said he saw the 80 to 90-foot object, Gehman took a Geiger counter to the site to check for radiation. He knew that other reported UFO's have given off radiation.

Gehman got a "tremendously high reading" of radiation, and his finding has been verified by H. M. Cook of Staunton, a research engineer at Waynesboro's Du Pont plant. Gehman "was having a tizzy because the needle was all the way off the dial," said Cook, who has had considerable experience with Geiger counters in his work.

"It was a hot area," Cook said. "We spent 45 minutes in the field trying to tone this reading down. We checked the radium dials on our watches, even went over a small hill from the field, but this was definitely an accurate reading. The only thing I can say is that it was hot (radioactive)."

To Test Soil

Gehman said he plans to take samples of the soil in the field in the next few days for laboratory tests.

Last Tuesday, 22 days after Burns' sighting, the air force sent two men here from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, at Dayton, Ohio, to investigate a report they had gotten of the UFO in a letter from a valley resident. The air base is headquarters for project Blue Book which investigates sightings of UFO's reported to the air force.

After a 30-minute investigation in the field with air force Geiger counters, the servicemen reached the conclusion that there is no radiation in the field. They could give Burns no explanation for what he saw, but Sgt. David Moody, head of the team, said he would rule out in his final report any possibility of it being an airplane or helicopter because of the nature of Burns' report.

It was nearing dusk on December 21 when Burns said he saw the UFO. Only one visible light shone from it—a foot-wide blue band around the base, he said. The vehicle made no noise except for a slight "whooshing sound" when it left. It had no visible doors or windows, he said.

Not Routine Sighting

Until Sergeant Moody files his report his findings will not be known, but he admitted that "this is an unusual sighting. It's not routine. If it was routine we wouldn't be here."

When the question was raised last week whether Burns was telling a true story or one he had fabricated for publicity, a young boy came to his aid. Kenneth Norton Jr., 14, said he had seen a similar object about the same time on the same day from a bedroom window of his Staunton home. He told his mother about the object on that same day—December 21.

Urged by Professor Gehman to notify him if others had also seen the object, three persons have said they also noticed an unusual object about the

same time. A research engineer and his son who live near Waynesboro airport were outside and also saw a strange effect. Another man who lives in Waynesboro reported seeing a UFO.

Although residents of this area have responded with interest to Burns' account, many are still skeptical and point to the loopholes in his story.

Most Frequent Question

The question most often raised is why weren't other cars stopped by the flying vehicle as Burns says his was; also, Rt. 250 is a heavily traveled road in this area, yet he doesn't recall any other cars passing the scene nor have any reported being there.

Professor Gehman has prepared a report of the entire incident to be filed with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) at Washington. NICAP receives all reports of UFO's, checks them and catalogues its findings.

Professor Gehman, who also is a minister, thinks there is possible some connection between the UFO's and a passage in the New Testament's book of St. Luke referring to the second coming of Christ:

"And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; and the sea and the waves roaring . . ."

Gehman also said he feels that possibly the word "worlds" in Hebrews 11 is meant to indicate God created more than one planet with living beings:

"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God . . ."

Keyhoe's View

A similar view—that there are other planets with life on them—is shared by Maj. Donald Keyhoe of Luray, a retired marine corps pilot who is now director of NICAP. He is a noted authority and author on UFO's.

Major Keyhoe said "it would be narrow-minded of us to believe that we are the only living creatures in a galaxie with billions of stars and several million thought to have planets."

It is very possible that another planet, possibly not in our solar system, has life on it developed hundreds, or even millions, of years ahead of us enabling them to travel great distances through space, pointed out the major.

Major Keyhoe's main concern in the entire subject of UFO's is the attitude of the air force toward the field of these unexplained vehicles.

"The high level policy of the air force is to play this thing (UFO reports) down," Major Keyhoe said. "The policy is to deny everything until they have more answers."

The air force maintains in a publication on Project Blue Book that "to date, no unidentified aerial phenomena has given any indication of threat to the national security; there has been no evidence submitted to or discovered by the air force that unidentified sightings represented technological developments or principles beyond the range of our present day scientific knowledge; and finally, there has been nothing in the way of evidence or other data to indicate that these unidentified sightings were extra terrestrial vehicles under intelligent control."

Major Keyhoe counters with: "I think the same as the air force secretly does—these vehicles are from another planet with far superior intelligence to ours."

Regardless of what the future has in store for this planet and UFO's, Keyhoe is concerned that presently an accidental nuclear war could be triggered by Russia or the United States. "The air force secrecy is dangerous because these UFO's could be mistaken for an enemy attack," he said. Many have been picked up on radar screens, he added.



T-D News Bureau Photo
Horace Burns of Grottoes Works at His Trade
Gunsmith Reported UFO in Augusta County



Prof. Ernest Gehman
Cites Bible

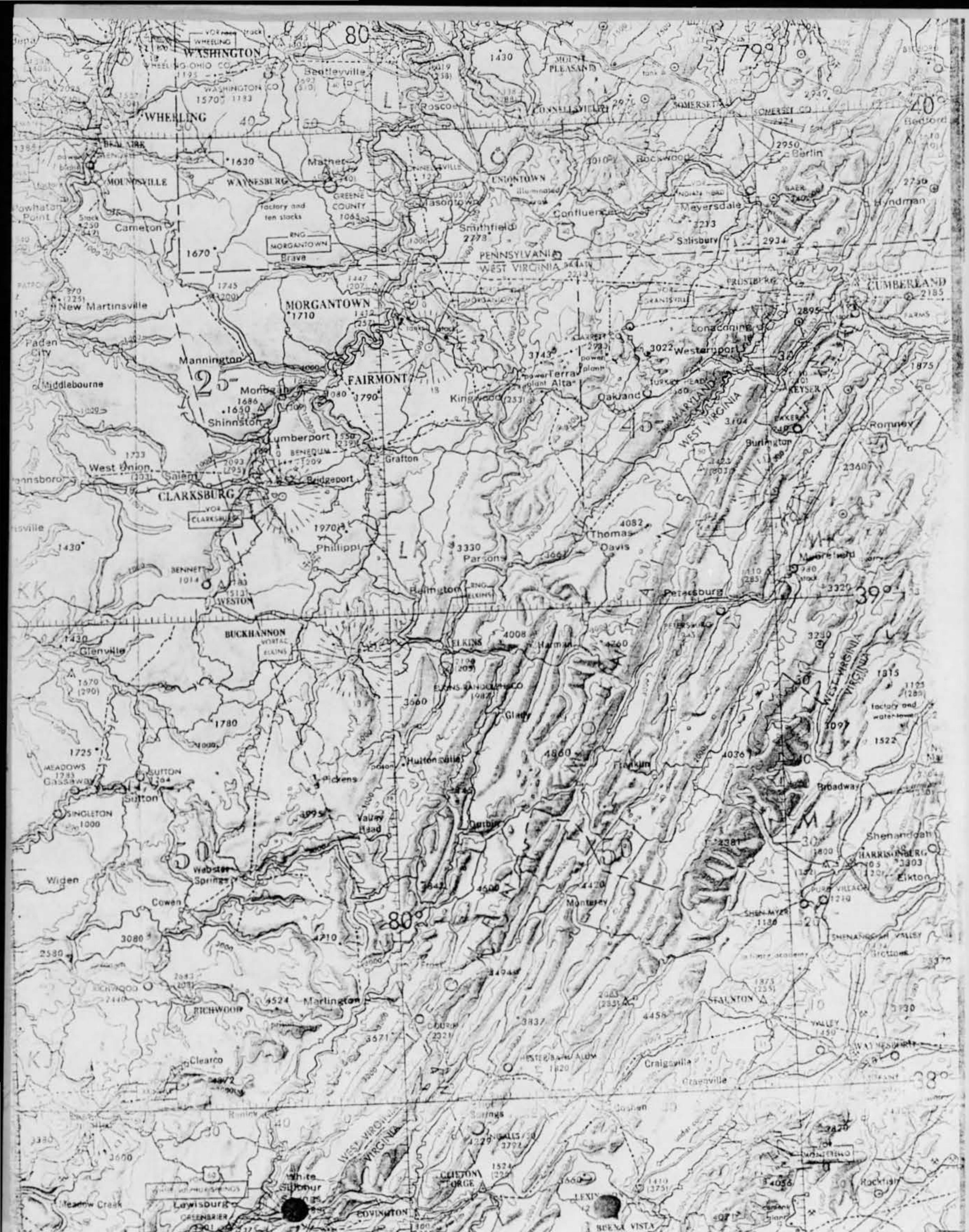


Maj. Donald Keyhoe
Hits Air Force Policy





This case includes five (5) $3\frac{1}{4}'' \times 4\frac{1}{4}''$
photographs.



~~EDITORIAL SYMBOLIZATION~~

NONE SHOWN
ON THIS CHART

AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION

Major aerodromes 920
Runway pattern and 6000 foot diameter circle is
shown at 1:500,000 scale. Center of circle represents
true position of airfield.

Major aerodromes,
runway pattern not available

Minor aerodromes

Jet facilities available

Seaplane base (3)
Aerodromes are shown for their checkpoint value and for possible emergency use. Major aerodromes (with hard surface runways of 3500 feet or more in length) are shown by pattern when this information is available. Minor aerodromes (with loose surface runways or hard surface runways less than 3500 feet in length) are portrayed by a small circle centered on the location. Number following the name indicates length of longest runway to nearest hundreds of feet. Aerodrome elevations are shown in feet above sea level. Aerodromes include runway length ONLY when the longest is 5000 feet and over and information is available.

Vertical obstructions..... A (230)
(unlabeled obstructions are towers)

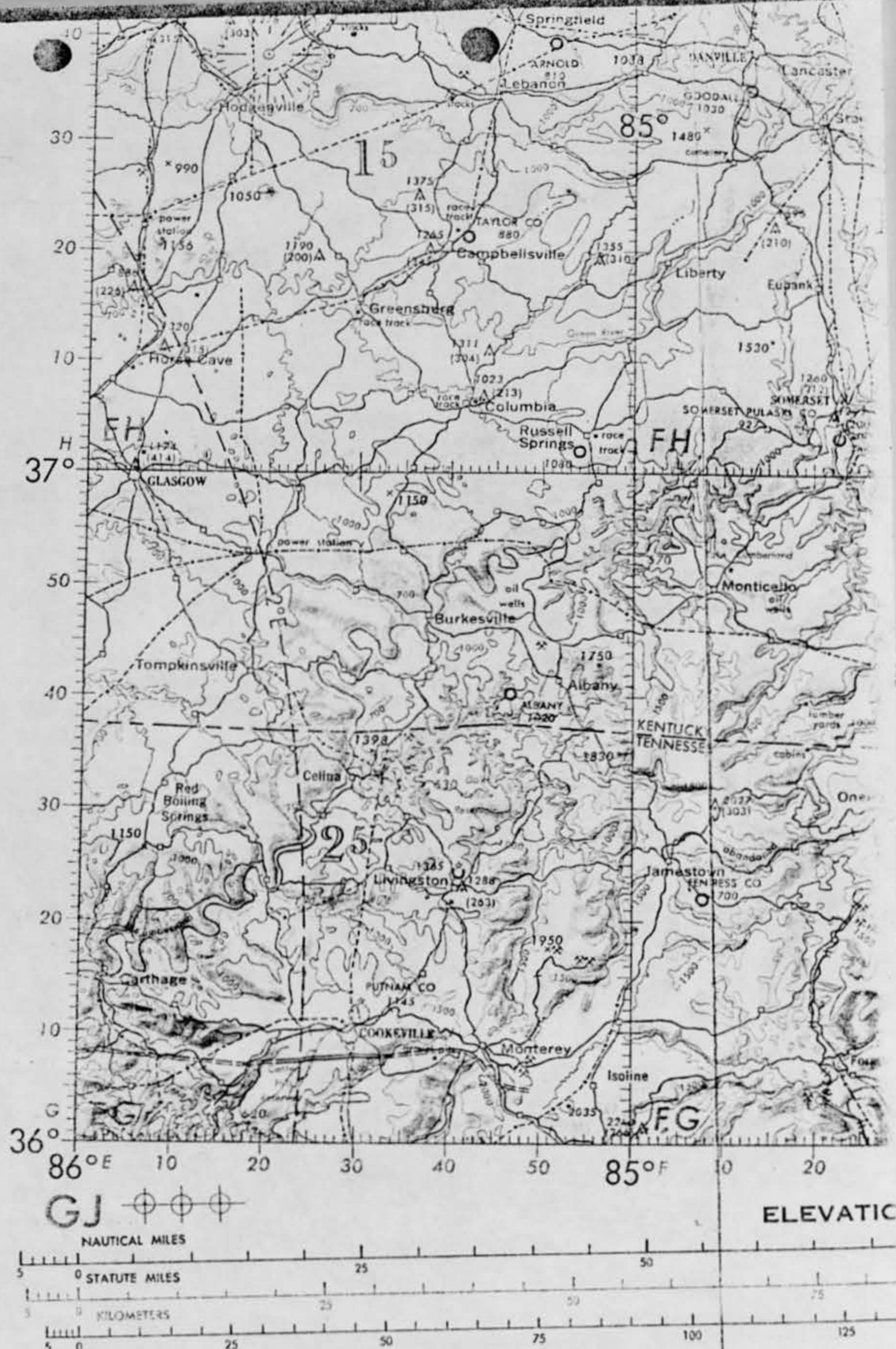
Vertical obstruction with landmark significance 920
(230)
(black square indicates location)

Numerals adjacent to obstruction indicate elevation of top of obstruction above mean sea level. Numerals in parentheses indicate height above ground.

RELIABILITY OF VERTICAL OBSTRUCTION DATA

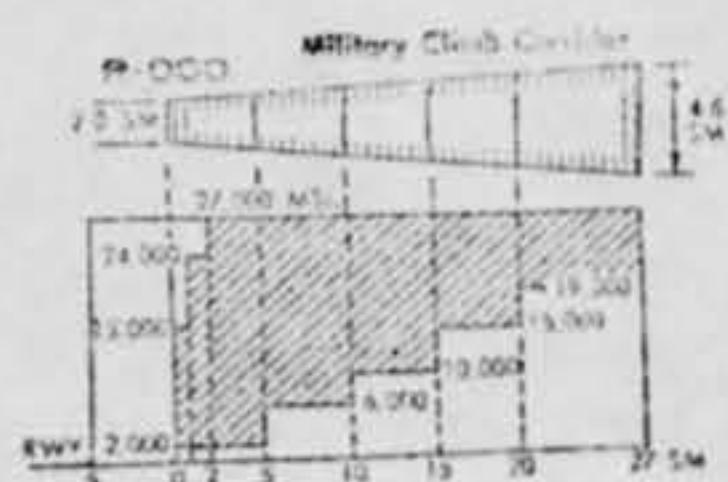


AREA OR WARNING AREA AREA
P-15 NUMBER INDICATES INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
COMMUNICATION



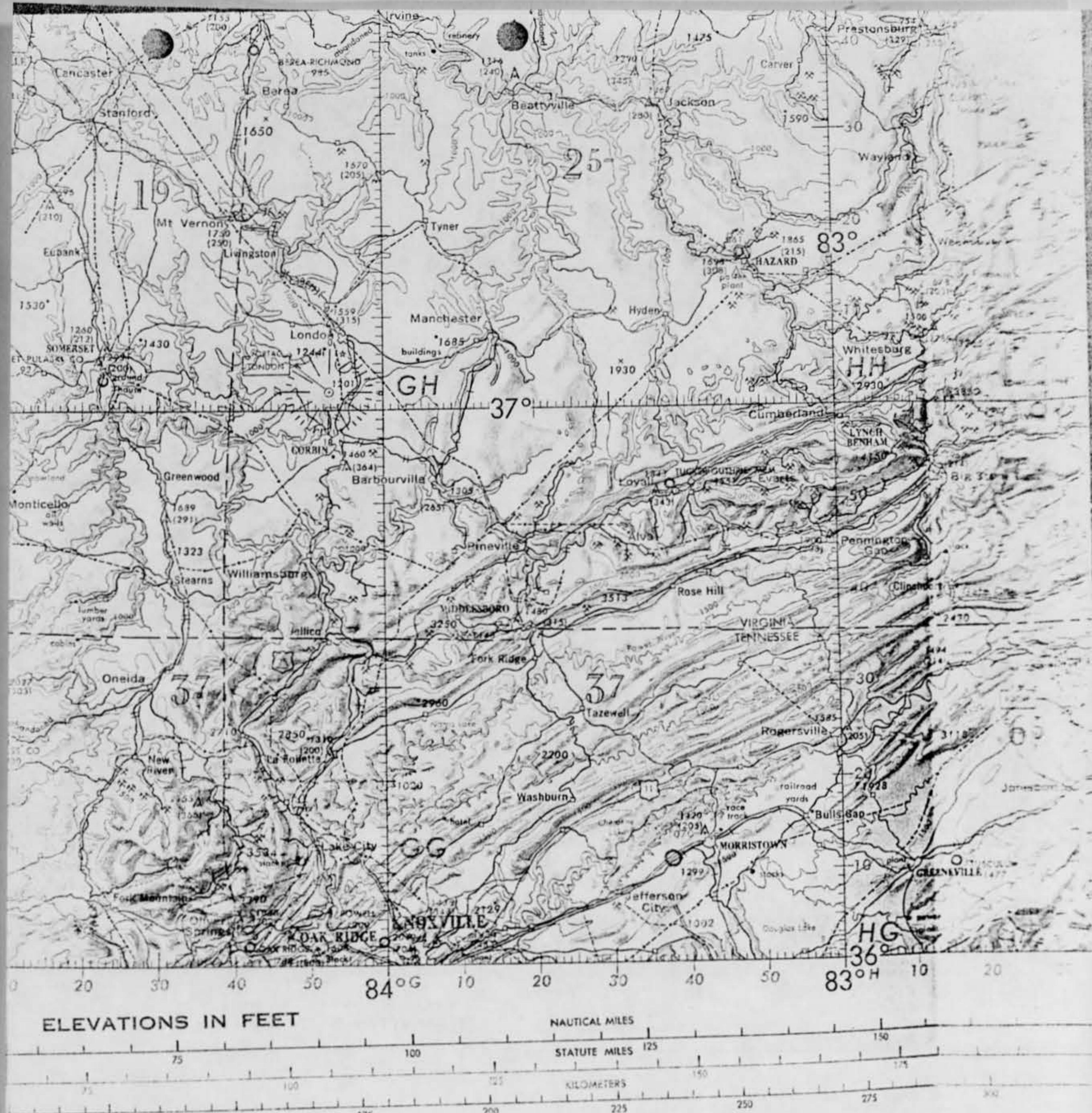
Typical Military Climb Corridor

Typical Military Climbing Corridor
Altitude limits do not extend above 27,000 MSL.
Corridor dimensions and minimum altitudes may
vary from that shown on the profile. Consult
Aeronautical Information Publications for details.



INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEETS

308		309
359	358	357
	UNITED STATES	



USAF OPERATIONAL NAVIGATION

PUBLISHED BY THE AERONAUTICAL CHART AND INFORMATION
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ST. LOUIS, MO.





NATIONAL NAVIGATION CHART

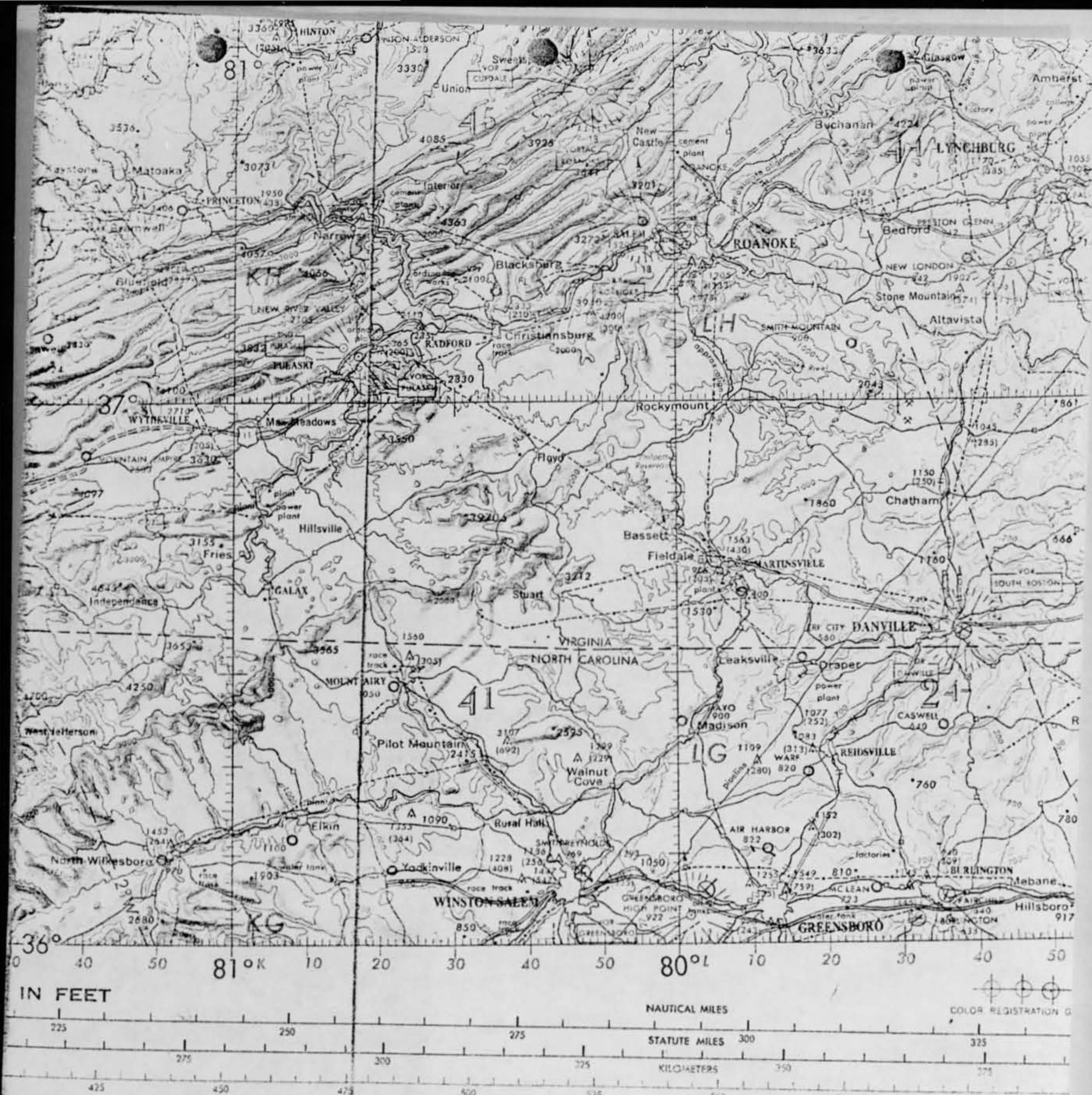
ED BY THE AERONAUTICAL CHART AND INFORMATION CENTER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
ST. LOUIS, MO.



Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
Standard Parallels 36°40' and 39°29'
Convergence factor 61572

CONVERSION OF ELEVATION.										
FEET	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
METERS	0	0.3048	0.6096	0.9144	1.2192	1.5230	1.8278	2.1316	2.4354	2.7392
DECA METERS	0	0.3048	0.6096	0.9144	1.2192	1.5230	1.8278	2.1316	2.4354	2.7392

NOTE: It is requested that all users of this chart mark hereon corrections and additions which come to their attention and mail direct to COMMANDER, AERONAUTICAL CHART AND INFORMATION CENTER, SECOND AND ARSENAL, ST. LOUIS 18, MISSOURI, ATTN: ACDO.



Lambert Conformal Conic Projection
Standard Parallels 36°40' and 39°20'
Convergence factor 61572

CAUTION-

AIR INFORMATION CURRENT THROUGH
17 JUNE 1963

Aeronautical information is subject to frequent changes. The user of charts or air information products can help insure currency. Consult NOTAMS and USAF/USN Flight Information Publications for the latest air information; the Chart Updating Manual for other chart revision information.

KANAWHA RIVER

UNITED STATES

ONC 358

SCALE 1:1,000,000

9TH EDITION

LINES OF EQUAL MAGNETIC VARIATION FOR 1901 (Annual Rate of Change 1.1° per century for latitude 45°)



KANAWHA RIVER

UNITED STATES

ONC 358

SCALE 1:1,000,000

9TH EDITION
LINES OF EQUAL MAGNETIC VARIATION FOR 1940
(Anisotropy of Earth's Magnetic Field)

IN EDITIONS AND WITH A GLOSSARY.

PAGE 210
Data Interchange Compiled May 1959
From Source Dated March 1950
Revised March 1963 From Source
Dated January 1963
SPEC NO. ONC-A-2

Lithographed by AGC C 762

quotes Keyhoe's well-known views on the dangers inherent in withholding information. An accidental nuclear war could accidentally be triggered by Russia or the U.S.

"The high level policy of the air force is to play this thing down," Major Keyhoe said. "The policy is to deny everything until they have more answers."

Major Keyhoe answers the Air Force's negative findings, one of which is "That there has been nothing in the way of evidence or other data to indicate that these unidentified sightings were extra-terrestrial vehicles under intelligent control."

Major Keyhoe counters with: "I think the same as the Air Force secretly does — these vehicles are from another planet with far superior intelligence to ours."

x December 21, 1964--Fisherville, Virginia-- Gunsmith Horace Burns reported a 125 foot in diameter and 80 to 90 foot high saucer which landed in a nearby meadow for two minutes near Woodrow Wilson Education Center. A high background radiation count was detected by Professor Ernest Gehman of the Eastern Mennonite College at the site the next day.

SOURCE: Staunton Leader, Virginia.

Just Don't Shoot, Sheriff Warns

Virginians See Flying Saucers

By TOM PENDERGAST

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — At least one Virginian sheriff thinks it's okay to watch for flying saucers in the skies.

Just don't shoot the little green men reported accompanying them.

"This thing has gotten completely out of hand," says Sheriff John E. Kent of Augusta County. "It is now dangerous to county residents."

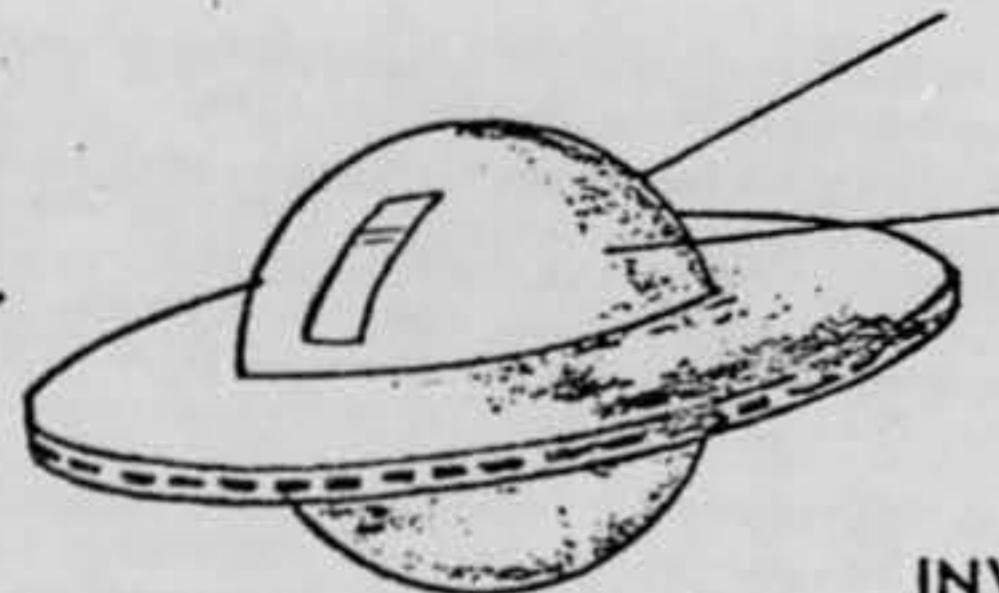
Almost daily, Virginians are reporting unidentified flying objects — UFO — in several parts of the state. And some claim they have seen little Martian types wandering around on the ground.

"Anyone can go out at night,"

says Kent, "and see reflections in the sky. But anyone carrying firearms in the county without good reason will be dealt with according to the law."

Besides, he adds, even if creatures from outer space have landed — "Who's got the right to mow them down?"

Even the Air Force has gotten into the act. It has discounted any evidence confirming existence of either flying saucers or little green men. But, for the record, a spokesman adds: "Our cases are never closed until the reported objects are sufficiently identified."



FSIC BULLETIN

VOL. 2 NO. 1

PREPARED BY THE FLYING SAUCER
INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE OF AKRON, OHIO
P.O. DRAWER G - AKRON, OHIO 44305

FOR
OCTOBER,
NOVEMBER,
DECEMBER, 1964
and
JANUARY,
FEBRUARY, 1965

GIGANTIC UFO LANDS NEAR STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA HIT BY "SAUCERS"

Unidentified flying objects were everywhere — or so it seemed, during last December and January. Especially was this true in Augusta County in western Virginia. (38th parallel)

Many Virginians from various walks of life reported sightings of mysterious objects in the sky, on the ground, and even little men scurrying over the Virginia countryside.

Professor Ernest Gehman, of Eastern Mennonite College, at Harrisonburg, Va., entered the picture at that time. (Harrisonburg is 20-30 miles north). Prof. Gehman launched himself into the investigation, and found himself unexpectedly involved in a succession of fast moving discoveries.

The report is thorough, complete, and clearly written. But a greater value attaches; that of his first-hand contact with the Air Force investigations team. His keen observations and insights touch many familiar "bases" in the continuing controversy over UFOs.

Dr. Gehman's report follows, complete and unabridged.

GIGANTIC UFO LANDS NEAR STAUNTON, VIRGINIA (Report on Sighting, Radiation, and Air Force Investigation)

Possibly the most remarkable sighting of an unidentified flying object ever reported to have taken place in the Shenandoah Valley occurred at 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 21, 1964. Mr. Horace Burns, living at Grottoes, Va., and conducting a small gunshop business on North Main Street in Harrisonburg, was driving his 58 Mercury station wagon a few miles east of Staunton on Route 250 toward Waynesboro, when he saw a huge metallic object coming out of the sky north of the highway. As it crossed Route 250 about 200 feet ahead of him, his motor stopped dead, "conked out," as he tells it, and his car seemed to come to an unnaturally quick stop.

The UFO landed lightly "like a bubble" in a small meadow at a spot about 100 yards from the highway. Mr. Burns guided his car to the side of the road, got out and stood beside it, and stared in amazement at the awesome spectacle. What he saw resembled in shape an upside-down toy top, but the size of it was astounding. "It was 125 feet in diameter, at least, and 80 to 90 feet high!" he declares. And besides being generally cone-shaped, its circular, sloping sides rose in about 6 large, concentric convolutions that decreased in diameter to a dome at the top.

Although in the gathering twilight Craftsman Burns could not be sure of the exact nature of the material of which it was made, it appeared to be metallic, possibly of aluminum. He noted that all around the perimeter at the base of the monstrous machine there was a bluish glow in a band about a foot, possibly 18 inches, wide. He could see no windows, doors, portholes, or even seams anywhere on the object. Nor did there seem to be any sort of landing gear; the vehicle had gently settled flat on its bottom on the ground, although he noted that its underside was slightly curved.

The visitor from outer space rested on the meadow for from 60 to 90 seconds and then with a "whoosh," the sound no doubt caused by the air rushing under it, it suddenly rose straight up for several hundred feet and immediately took off in a north-easterly direction at a speed much greater than when it crossed the highway from the north the first time, which Mr. Burns estimates to have been about 15 miles per hour.

After it was gone, Burns got into his car again and was surprised to find, when he pressed the starter button, that there was nothing wrong with the engine and that it started off at once. As he drove away he was evidently very much excited and engrossed in his thoughts about the apparition (as who wouldn't be?), for he cannot recall seeing any other vehicles coming or going on Route 250 for possibly a mile. But no doubt other cars on that busy highway must have been halted by the UFO's tremendous magnetic field, and other drivers must have witnessed the sight; we are still hoping that any such will make the fact known.

Horace Burns went home and told Mrs. Burns the story of what he had seen, but declared he would not tell anyone else. "They'd think I'm crazy," he said. But six days later, when Mr. Jim Shipp of WSVA announced on the 6 p.m. newscast about the existence of the UFO Investigators as an extra-curricular club at Eastern Mennonite College, Mrs. Burns convinced her husband that he should report his experience. He told it on Monday to Mr. Shipp, who informed me, the undersigned sponsor of the UFO Investigators, and I taped the story on Tuesday as Mr. Burns told it in his gunshop. I had never known or heard of Horace Burns before that Monday afternoon. On Wednesday I made a preliminary testing of the area with a Geiger counter which revealed radioactivity of over 60,000 counts per minute. This was 9 days after the UFO had briefly rested there!

As an interesting and unplanned corroboration of Horace Burns' story, let me mention the fact that I found the exact landing area of the UFO by myself with the Geiger counter. Mr. Burns had intended to accompany me to the spot, but when the hour arrived for us to go to the place four miles east of Staunton (which is 28 miles south of Harrisonburg) he could not leave his gunshop until a certain dealer in West Virginia had come to pick up a lot of guns which Burns had repaired for the dealer's customers and which they had to have the next day to shoot out the old year and to shoot in the new!

(Continued on Page 2)

